

THE
HISTORIC RANCOCAS

By
GEORGE DECOUR

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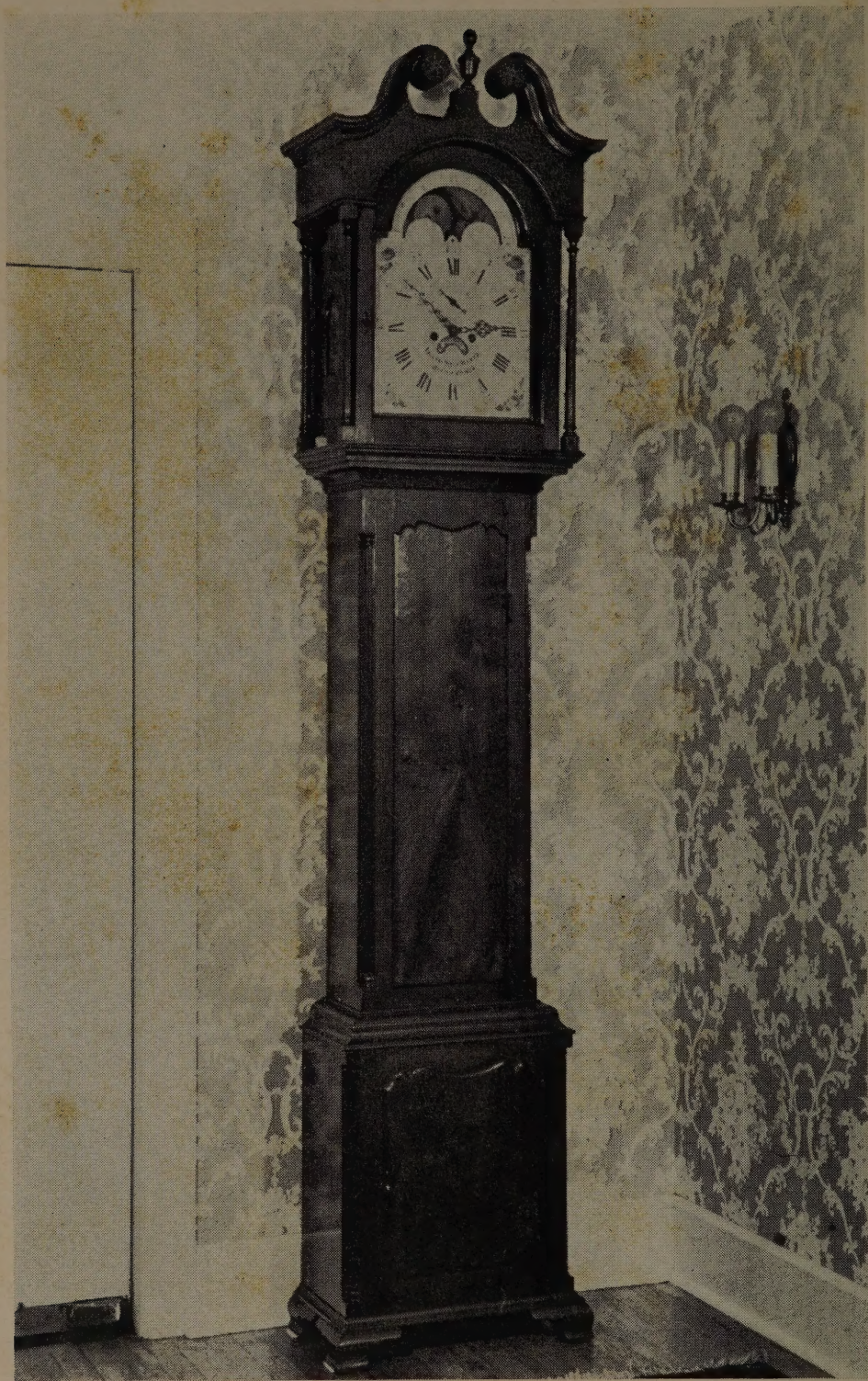


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Your friend,
George DeCon



Tall clock made by David Shoemaker, Mount Holly, Circa 1785. Courtesy of Mrs. George Wood, Moorestown. Photograph by Carlyle H. Hill, Colwick, N. J.

THE HISTORIC RANCOCAS

**Sketches of the Towns and Pioneer Settlers
in Rancocas Valley**

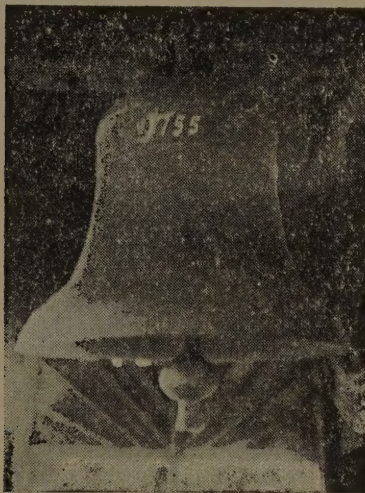
By

GEORGE DeCOU

Former President of the
BURLINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Author of

MOUNT HOLLY and VICINITY
MOORESTOWN AND HER NEIGHBORS
BURLINGTON: A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL



COURT HOUSE BELL

Courtesy of Dr.
Raymond S. Clarke.

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To my friend

NELSON BURR GASKILL, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.,

a native of Mount Holly and descendant of the
pioneer settlers, Edward Gaskill and Henry
Burr, with appreciation of his valuable help in
the preparation of these sketches.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am especially indebted to Nathaniel R. Ewan, of Moorestown, former President of the Burlington County Historical Society and to Nelson Burr Gaskill, of Washington, D. C. for their valuable assistance in the preparation of these sketches. I would also like to thank A. Engle Conrow, of Rancocas, John J. Buswell, of Lumberton, D. Budd Jones, of Moorestown, Miss Amelia Rougeau, of Bridgeboro, Mrs. Wilfred B. Wolcott, of Westfield, and William Grobler, of Moorestown; the latter two being natives of Pemberton, for their helpfulness.

I also desire to acknowledge the uniform courtesy of Miss Hazel C. Clark, County Librarian and her former assistant Miss Mabel E. Hollinshead, Miss Elizabeth Alcott, Librarian of the Mount Holly Library, Miss Hannah Severns, Librarian of the Moorestown Free Library and her assistants Miss Martha Cowperthwaite and Mrs. Henry D. Twitchell, Jr., for permitting me to browse freely in their libraries.

GEORGE DeCOU.

Moorestown, New Jersey.

INTRODUCTION

When I wrote "Burlington: A Provincial Capital" I did not dream of writing this volume or I would not have included sketches of the pioneer families who settled in the Rancocas Valley. However, as they especially belong in this book I will include most of them.

I fully realize that my Burlington book, as well as this volume, is too full of historical data to prove popular reading. However, as both were written primarily to arouse greater interest in the study of your neighborhood and for the student of local history, who may not have the leisure to search the early records, it may prove useful.

Tradition is very apt to be wrong and the written word not always dependable, therefore it is necessary to consult the early records when available. It is very difficult to get the true story of an event that occurred one hundred and fifty or two hundred years ago. The only way is to get back of the written word or tradition when possible.

"Along the Rancocas," well illustrated, will include my pamphlets on Mount Holly and Rancocas, published in 1936 and 1937, with the contents re-arranged and the addition of many chapters and material. The writing of these books and newspaper articles, mostly appearing in the Mount Holly Herald, has been "a labor of love" to the author.

GEORGE DeCOU.

Moorestown, New Jersey

FOREWORD

I first made acquaintance with George De Cou when I was wandering New Jersey to trace the faint records of John Woolman's personal and family life, as distinct from his 'Journal' record as a "public Friend." The Rancocas area around Mount Holly has been so changed and built upon since that early day that sometimes only a few bricks or an unprotected spring in tufts of grass remain to bear evidence of houses and scenes familiar to John Woolman's youth. The weak ink on the parchment of ancient deeds is a poor guide to one ignorant of local geography. But George DeCou had covered the region like a detective. Eagerly he welcomed a fellow-searcher and familiarized me with the landscape he knew and loved—the landscape not of today but of the long gone past. And here in this book he offers a like companionship to all who come.

Mankind, unable to control the extension of his life forward, has been given the power—alone among the animal kingdom—to extend it backward as far as he will. Interest in history is a mark of civilization, and a cherishing of the values of the past helps for sounder progress in the future.

It is very pleasant to share with George DeCou his passionate interest in the intensive study of this small but rich spot of earth, Rancocas Valley. Persons who care to visit county records offices or historical societies and mull over musty documents and mouldering family volumes are few. But this well-printed book will save them the trouble. All references are carefully authenticated and years of patient work have been condensed in these easily-read pages.

Here we see estates measured by such ephemerals as one white oak at the south corner to another at the north, a bend of a stream at the west, and a big stone at the east; while casual bills of sale for parcels of land were delayed two or three years—everyone knew of the transfer, there

was no risk. We see Stephen Gerard's three ships, in the war of 1812, hiding stem to stern across Rancocas Creek. We see the wily Indian outwitting the jesting Quaker and skillfully collecting his bushel-basket full of cider. And throughout we observe the prosperity and the natural democracy of this modest and happy colony, founded by religious farmers, craftsmen, and artisans.

George De Cou has made the topographical history of his neighborhood a hobby which has assumed the serious proportions of a second career. Not often can a retired business man make such fruitful use of his leisure. All descendants of the many Quaker settlers mentioned here will rejoice to reap his harvest, and many others who take pleasure in the concrete facts which make the past so tangible and real.

JANET WHITNEY.

Westtown, Pa.

December, 1949.

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Chapter 1

INDIAN BACKGROUND

THE Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians were the only inhabitants of Burlington County when the English Quakers arrived in the early fall of 1677, with the exception of a few Dutch and Swedish families on the Delaware River. The natives called the Delaware "Lenape-wihittuck," the rapid stream of the Lenape. New Jersey was called "Scheyechbi," (Shay-ak-bee) meaning, Long Land Water.

The Lenape Indians belonged to the Algonkin Nation and were divided into three tribes, the Minsi, the Unami and the Unilachtigo, which in turn were subdivided into numerous tribes or clans. The Minsi Tribe, totem a wolf, inhabited the mountainous regions of eastern Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey and was more warlike than its southern neighbors. The Unami, totem a tortoise, lived in the central part of the state and claimed to be the parent stock of the Delawares. According to the mythology of the tribe, the tortoise once carried the earth on its back. The Unilachtigo, totem a turkey, dwelt in the southern part of the state.

We are especially interested in the Unami Tribe, as most of the natives living in the neighborhood of Rancocas and Mount Holly were Unamis. Dr. Frank Wright, of Moorestown, has in his outstanding collection of Burlington County Indian relics a stone peace-pipe which was found many years ago in the vicinity of Trenton. It closely resembles a turtle with its head drawn into its shell. There is an opening in the turtle's back for the insertion of the tobacco. The seven holes around its belly were so arranged that a number of sachems could smoke the pipe of peace at the same time. The pipe is the only one of its kind that I have ever seen and is exceptionally rare.

The Council Fire or principal seat of the Unami Tribe was located on the bank of the Delaware below Trenton.

Here dwelt the Assanhicans, generally called the Sanhicans, a branch of the Unami, when the white men arrived early in the seventeenth century. Dr. Charles C. Abbott, who lived on the site of the Indian town, had a splendid collection of Indian relics found in the neighborhood of his home. He was the author of "The Stone Age," "Ten Years Digging in Lenape Land" and other books and was perhaps the first scientist to suggest that New Jersey was occupied by an earlier tribe of Indians than the Lenape.

The Unamis were peaceful Indians, if treated kindly, and proved to be good friends and neighbors to the pioneer settlers. The letters of the early arrivals to their relatives and friends in England not infrequently referred to the kindness of the natives. John Cripps in a letter to his friend Henry Stacy, written on the 26th of 8th month, 1677, said: "The Indians are very loving to us, except here and there one, when they have gotten strong liquors in their heads, which they now greatly love."¹

Practically all of the pioneer settlers in Burlington County were members of the Religious Society of Friends, who treated the natives kindly and had no serious trouble with them. It is true that the Delawares were peaceful Indians and yet very significant that no Friends were known to have been killed in Colonial America except three or four who had abandoned the Quaker ideal of non-resistance and were armed or on their way to the forts.² The first thing that the Quaker settlers did when they established a settlement was to set up a meeting for worship and establish a school. There were no Quaker forts in Colonial America and no Quaker soldiers.

Judging by the large number of Indian relics that have been found on the banks of Rancocas Creek and its tributaries, the valley must have been a favorite habitat of the natives. The village sites are located by the finding of numerous chips made by the old men in fashioning their stone implements. The villages and camps were generally located near a stream or never failing spring. It should not be forgotten that the Indians were a nomadic race and seldom pitched their tents permanently in one place.

The name Rancocas, usually spelled Rankokus in the early deed and surveys, is pure Indian. It is frequently spelled "Ancocas," doubtless for the reason that some authorities claim that the Unami Indians had no sound in their language that could be interpreted by our letter r. However, I believe that Rancocas is the correct spelling. The name is derived from the Indian sachem "Ramcock" who lived in the neighborhood of Rancocas village. In 1634 Captain Yonge and his nephew Robert Evelin established a small trading post at the mouth of Pensauken Creek which empties into the Delaware at Palmyra. In 1648 Evelin wrote a letter in which he enumerated the Indian tribes that dwelt on the river from Cape May to the Falls of the Delaware, now Trenton.

He mentioned the Amarongs, whose sachem Eriwoneck lived in the neighborhood of the Pensauken, with forty bowmen, and King **Ramcock** with one hundred bowmen who dwelt five miles up the river. An Indian deed, dated April 9, 1649,³ for the land lying between the Rancocas Creek and the Assiscunk at Burlington, reads in part as follows: "For land on South River from Rankokes Kil to a Kil on the south end of an Island called "Tinnekonck," the Indian name for the island opposite East Burlington. The deed was executed by Indian Chiefs to Alexander Boyer and Symon Root. The above is the earliest record that I have seen of the name Rancocas. The Swedes called the stream Rancoquess Kyl as early as 1655.

Herman's Map of Virginia, 1673, charts an Indian village between the North and South Branches of the Rancocas and quite near the Forks above Centerton. This may have been the chief village of the Rancocas Indians, as it was ideally located for hunting and fishing. The stream on this map was charted "Rankokes River." Another Indian village is charted on the south side of the creek below Centerton. Tradition also locates an Indian village and graveyard on the Daniel Wills farm; the latter being where the Friends Graveyard is located on Centerton Road.

The story of the decline and final passing of the West Jersey Indians in less than two hundred years after the

arrival of the whites, is both interesting and pathetic. The lowering of their morale and final downfall can be traced in a large measure to the introduction of rum and contagious diseases by the Dutch and Swedes early in the 17th century. The natives of West Jersey did not have intoxicating drinks of any kind before the arrival of the white men and therefore had not built up a resistance to their devastating effects. At a conference in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1753 Benjamin Franklin said: "And indeed if it be the design of Providence to extirpate these savages in order to make room for the cultivators of the earth it seems not improbable that rum may be the appointed means."

Smallpox, the deadliest of diseases to the natives and early settlers, was a close second to rum as the cause of the downfall of the Indian tribes. At times this dread disease swept through the forests and almost exterminated entire villages. The Indians knew nothing of the nature of contagious diseases, though skilled in the use of medicinal herbs. Their treatment of smallpox was exceedingly crude. The patient was placed in a sweat-house, which was a hut plastered with mud and made as air-tight as possible, and then a red-hot stone was rolled into the hut and water poured over it. The good that might have resulted from this primitive Turkish Bath was counteracted by taking the patient to the nearest stream and plunging him into the cold water, an heroic and frequently a fatal treatment.

The Indians seem to have realized that their race was doomed. A chief said to an early settler: "For every white man that comes into the Country two Indians will die." In 1680 when the great comet appeared in the sky a sachem said in reply to a question as to its meaning: "It signifies that we Indians shall melt away and this country be inhabited by another people." It is impossible to estimate the number of Indians in Burlington County when the white men arrived. They dwelt mostly in the upper part of the county along the rivers and creeks. The Indians were a wandering race and depended largely on hunting and fishing for their livelihood. They were in a

measure tillers of the soil but as their implements were exceptionally crude, their crops were meager.

For many years the Indians and whites lived peaceably together yet the seeds of discord were already sown and destined to bear rather bitter fruit. A conference was held at Crosswicks in 1756 at which the Indians presented a list of their grievances. The use of massive steel traps for catching deer; the selling of rum to them and cheating them while under its influence; the building of dams across the streams and the occupancy of land for which they had received no compensation were the chief complaints. The Legislature appointed commissioners to investigate these complaints and report at a later session.

The Assembly recognized the justice of their position and early in 1757 passed a law prohibiting the use of traps weighing more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; declared that an Indian could not be imprisoned for debt and that all "Indian sales or pawns for drink" be declared void. It also laid a penalty on all persons selling rum to the Indians "so as to intoxicate them."⁴ Later in 1757, 1600 pounds were appropriated to the commissioners to purchase title to Indian lands in New Jersey.

Another and much larger conference with the Indians was held in the "Great Meeting House" at Crosswicks in 1758 at which Teedyescung, King of the Lenni Lenape and 27 other Indian sachems were present. The Indians presented a long list of lands then occupied by the whites for which they had not been paid.⁵ Five Indians were given power of attorney to transact all future business with the Legislature regarding land. The Indians living south of the Raritan River requested that part of their share of the 1600 pounds appropriated be used for the purchase of a tract of land for their exclusive use. In return for which they agreed to surrender title to all lands still in their possession.

On August 29, 1758, the commissioners appointed by the Legislature, purchased a tract containing 3044 acres in old Evesham Township from Benjamin Springer for 740 pounds.⁶ Title was taken by the Province "in trust for the Indians." The Reservation was to be exclusively

for the use of the Indians and free from taxation. It was located at Indian Mills, now in Shamong Township and was the first Indian Reservation in the United States under Federal or State control. Upwards of one hundred Indians gathered at the Reservation in 1759. Governor Bernard gave the appropriate name of "Brotherton" to the reservation as many tribes or clans were represented.⁷

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 1

¹ Smith, 103-104.

² Bancroft, Vol. 2, Page 383. "Penn came without arms; he declared his purpose to abstain from violence; he had no message but peace, and not a drop of Quaker blood was ever shed by an Indian." Brinton. *The Lenape and their Legends*, 63, "They (the Indians) had learned and well understood that the Friends were non-combatants and as such they never forgot to spare them even in the bloody scenes of border warfare."

³ New York Colonial Documents, Vol. XII, 48-49.

⁴ Smith, 441.

⁵ The Indians not infrequently sold their lands to more than one party. They did not seem to understand the white man's idea of ownership.

⁶ Secretary of State's Office, Liber O, 394.

⁷ A full account of the Reservation is given in Chapter 26.

Chapter 2

EARLY SETTLERS AND OLD ROADS

THE Rancocas Valley eastward of the village of Bridgeboro is historically very interesting. It was one of the earliest sections of the county to be settled. Burlington Pike, now Route 25, on which Bridgeboro is located, was authorized by Act of the Assembly on January 19, 1748. In the Pennsylvania Packet of June 8, 1749, there appeared the following notice:

"Notice is hereby given, That a new streight road from Philadelphia to Burlington is open'd and clear'd; the distance from Burlington to Coopers Ferries (Camden) being but 16 miles, and the whole good ground for a road. The advantages of it to all travellers from Philadelphia eastward are too obvious to need description."

The Ferry over the Rancocas was established in 1748 by John Buzby, who owned land on the northern side and James Sherwin on the southern. The Ferry charges were as follows:

"Footman, 2 pence

Man & horse, 3 pence

Chaise, Chair or Sleigh, 1 horse 9 pence

2 horses 1 shilling

Waggon, Coach or Chaise with four horses 18 pence

Cow, Heifer, Bull, Ox or Steer, 3 pence

Sheep and Hog, 1 penny"

This is the first instance that I have noticed a ferry charge for a vehicle of any kind. Carriages and wagons did not appear on the roads of Burlington County until the second quarter of the 18th century. A covered bridge was authorized in 1792 and erected in the following year. It stood a little above the present bridge. A new bridge was built across the stream in 1838. It was removed in 1927 and the present open bridge erected.

Barber & Howe's Historical Collections, published in 1844, lists two stores, one tavern and a few dwellings in

Bridgeborough, as the name was formerly spelled. The first tavern was established in 1749 by Samuel Lowden. It stood on the eastern side of Route 25 near the ferry. Bridgeboro today is a pleasant village of approximately 450 inhabitants. It contains one Methodist Church, one hotel and several stores. Formerly it was quite a ship building center. The Post Office was established in 1849.

The Bridgeboro Methodist Church was established in 1841. The first church building was located on the east side of Main Street about 100 yards south of Creek Road and was known as the Laurel Run Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1869 the Trustees purchased a lot on Main Street, where the present Church stands, and moved the old building to this lot and used it until 1879 when the Church now standing was erected. The Rev. G. Russell Shaw is now the Minister.

The neighborhood of Rancocas and Mount Holly was settled by English Friends during the last two decades of the 17th century. Of the pioneers who settled on the northern side of Rancocas Creek between Olive's Mill Creek and Mount Holly, eight were passengers on the **Kent**, which arrived in the Delaware in August, 1677, and eleven were signers of the Concessions and Agreements. Three, Thomas Olive, Benjamin Scott and Dr. Daniel Wills were Commissioners, appointed by the West Jersey Proprietors to purchase land from the Indians and establish a Government under the Concessions and Agreements, the Fundamental Law of West Jersey. It was an exceptionally intelligent group.

A very interesting and helpful map of these early surveys, drawn by Charles Stokes of Rancocas, may be seen in Woodward & Hageman's History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, published in 1883. I will list the surveys on this map eastward of Mill Creek:³

Thomas Olive, 636 acres, recorded on April 25 and July—, 1682. The Salem Road from Adams Wharf to Burlington, through the village of Charleston, was the eastern boundary of the plantation. Thomas Eves, 100 acres, recorded January 12, 1682. This farm was located east of the Salem Road.

John Roberts, 68 acres, recorded prior to 1680. John and Sarah Roberts removed to Chester Township in 1682.

Thomas French, 600 acres, recorded, April, 1684.

Robert Powell, 150 acres, recorded January 7, 1682. This plantation was located north of Mill Creek, opposite the Thomas French tract.

Robert Hudson, 210 acres, recorded July, 1685. Dr. Robert Dimsdale located 500 acres in the neighborhood on October 13, 1682,⁴ which Charles Stokes seems to have omitted. Dr. Dimsdale moved to Lumberton in 1684 and settled on a plantation extending to Mount Holly.

William Evans, 323 acres, recorded October 13, 1682.

Thomas Harding, 200 acres, recorded December, 1681.

John Payne, 200 acres, recorded December 21, 1681.

Benjamin Scott. Date of recording and acreage not known. The farm was located north of the Payne plantation on the map.

Dr. Daniel Wills, 500 acres, recorded December 21, 1681. The Wills' plantation is located east of the Centerton Road. On the following day Dr. Wills took up 300 acres adjoining his home farm on the north, 200 acres of which were for his son Daniel and 100 for George Elkinton, his indentured servant.

John Borton, 110 acres, recorded December, 1680. This farm was sold to John Borton by Dr. Daniel Wills.

John Woolman, 150 acres, recorded December, 1681.

Walter Humphrey, 200 acres, recorded March 2, 1682.

Bernard Devonish, 400 acres, recorded October 2, 1683.

John Stokes, 162 acres, recorded October 2, 1683. Also 150 acres recorded 1684.

Thomas Gardner (Jr.), recorded, May, 1685.

Anthony Elton, acreage and date not recorded. Very large tract.

Walter Clarke & Arthur Cooke, 1000 acres, recorded January 6, 1682.

Mary Perkins, widow of William Perkins, who died on the ship **Kent**, 1677, 500 acres, recorded January 17, 1682.

The Stokes farm was the home of Thomas and Mary Barnard Stokes, the progenitors of the family in West Jersey. The survey was made by his brother John Stokes, who never came to this country. In 1701 John Stokes conveyed this farm to his brother Thomas for "five shillings lawful money of England and the natural love and affection which I do have and beare unto my brother Thomas liveing at or neare Burlington in West Jersey."⁵

John Stokes died in London on July 8, 1709.

The survey for John Payne, recorded in 1681, reads: "John Payne for the use of Thomas Green," but a resurvey in 1741 corrected this error; as the survey was made for Thomas Green by his attorney John Payne. The southern part of this plantation, located west of the Center-ton Road, was purchased by Joseph Lundy in 1810.⁶ Joseph Lundy was the grandfather of the late Maurice E. Lundy, of Rancocas, and J. Wilmer Lundy, of Newtown, Pennsylvania. The Joseph Lundy home is now owned by William Spohn Baker, who is greatly interested in the history of the farm.

The family names of the first settlers in the neighborhood of Rancocas have largely disappeared. Thomas Olive died in 1692 without issue and his widow, Mary Wills Olive, who inherited the Olive plantation, afterwards married Robert Ewer, of Philadelphia. The Eves, Roberts, French, Evans and Borton families removed to Chester and Evesham Townships at an early date. The Powell, Hudson, Harding, Scott, Paine, Green, Humphreys, Hilliard and Devonish names have entirely disappeared. Joseph Wills, whose attractive home is located on Wood Lane is the only Wills and Frances Stokes Janney the only Stokes in the neighborhood. The historic name of Woolman also has disappeared, although a number of descendants of the pioneer John Woolman live in or near Rancocas. Granville Haines, Caroline Leeds Warrick and their children are direct descendants of John Woolman, grandfather of the Journalist.

The pioneers were followed by the Hilliard, Buzby, Haines, Lundy, Hansell, McIlvain, Williams and Leeds families, all of which were active and influential in the affairs of the community during the eighteenth, nineteenth and early decades of the twentieth century. Nicholas Buzby, the first of the family to settle in Willingboro Township, was the son of John and Mary Buzby, of Frankford, Pennsylvania. Nicholas married Mary French, daughter of Thomas and Jane French, in 1695 and practically all of the county Buzbys are descended from them. T. Harvey and Elgar Buzby and their children are the only Buzbys living in the neighborhood.



Franklin Park Residence, near Rancocas. Courtesy of Mrs. Norman Loring
 Photograph by Mrs. Agnes deCou Budd.



Stokingham, 1800. Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Howard H. Ringholm.
 Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

John Hilliard was the son of John Hilliard, who arrived in Pennsylvania prior to 1682. The Hilliards are of French descent, the name being spelled "Hillier" in France. It is not definitely known when John Hilliard first settled on the Rancocas or just where he lived before he married Martha, daughter of Bernard and Martha Devonish. On December 19, 1689, he purchased 100 acres from Bernard Devonish, whose plantation of 400 acres was located above the Forks of Rancocas Creek, and the deed reads to John Hilliard and Martha, his wife. Doubtless John and Martha settled on this farm.

John and Martha Hilliard had six children—Edward, John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Jane and Martha. Edward, the oldest son, married Sarah Haines and settled at Dewberry Hill. They had nine children, of whom six were boys.

Samuel Haines, son of William Haines and a descendant of Richard and Margaret, the pioneers, was the first of the family to settle near Rancocas. He purchased the Grovatt farm, north of the village, from Aaron Wills in 1767. The farm was part of the Thomas Green plantation, surveyed in 1681 and the house now standing is undoubtedly the oldest dwelling in Burlington County. William Haines, a descendant of Samuel, who owned the farm for many years, died in 1927 in his 94th year and stated shortly before his death that the house was then about two hundred and forty years old.

Alice W., Hudson, Mordecai and Granville Haines are the only persons bearing the name Haines living in or near Rancocas. Samuel Haines, father of Thomas Lee, Alfred C., and the late Dr. Samuel S. Haines, conducted a steam flour mill on Second Street, Rancocas, for many years. Doubtless it will be remembered by the older inhabitants.

Bernard Devonish is supposed to have arrived on the Kent in 1677. There is a tradition that when he arrived on the Rancocas and gazed across the river he remarked: This is the place I have seen in my dreams! He purchased 400 acres on the Rancocas and named his new home "Dewberry Hill," the name of his home in old England. His first home on the Rancocas was a log house

which stood near the site of the Jessup residence.

J. Sterling McIlvain, father of the late Horace K. McIlvain, of Mount Holly, purchased part of the Devonish plantation in 1876 and for many years the McIlvain family lived in the fine brick house that formerly stood on the site of the present home of Walter L. Jessup. The McIlvain home, erected by a Hilliard in the eighteenth century, was one of the most beautiful colonial houses in the neighborhood. Unfortunately it was burned many years ago. It stood on a bluff and commanded a beautiful view of the Rancocas and country beyond.

Jacob H. Leeds married Margaret Woolman, daughter of Dr. Granville Woolman, in 1853 and settled in the brick house now standing at the southwest corner of Main and Bridge Streets. He seems to have been the first of the Leeds family to settle in the neighborhood. For many years Jacob Leeds conducted the store at the corner, now owned by William and Mary Stevens. In 1878 Jacob Leeds purchased the Woolman farm at the Forks of the Rancocas where the Journalist was born but apparently never lived on it. Jacob and Margaret Leeds were the parents of the late Phebe Leeds Jones, of Moorestown, and of the late Elizabeth Leeds Buzby and her brother Henry Leeds, of Rancocas.

The Leeds family is descended from Thomas Leeds of Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, whose son Daniel married Dorothy Young in 1683 and settled on a farm near Jacksonville, Burlington County. Daniel Leeds' famous "Almanack" was published many years before Benjamin Franklin's.

OLD ROADS. The present road through Rancocas, on which the Quaker Meeting House is located, was laid out in 1771. The record in the County Clerk's Office, Mount Holly, reads:⁷

"Four pole road beginning near the northwest corner of Asher Woolman's clear land at the Great Road that was laid from Woolman's place to Burlington, thence to a white oak near Moses Wills line, thence southwest to corner of John Stokes, Moses Wills and Samuel Haines, the road to lay on the north side of them, thence . . . to the Great Road from Burlington to Coxe's Ferry, called Salem Road."

The record states that the road ran "nearly straight across the several Plantations to the S. E. corner of Governor Franklin's Deer Park and from thence to continue as the **old road** now goes until it comes to Salem road."

Asher Woolman was two years younger than his brother John, the Journalist, and inherited the Woolman farm at the time of his father's death in 1750. He built the house on the Mount Holly road in which Edward Friend and family now dwell. The above road was continued to Mount Holly in 1775. The record in the Road Book in the County Clerk's Office, reads:⁸

"Four pole road from the north end of Asher Woolman's Plantation at the east end of the Great Road laid from thence to Salem Road near Coxe's Ferry to the Great Road leading from Burlington to Bridgetown."

The original road from Mount Holly to Beverly ran much closer to Rancocas Creek than the present road through the village. The old road started at Burlington and passed the Friends Meeting House near the Cemetery on Wood Lane, Mount Holly, thence westward:⁹

"Over the route of the present Woodpecker Lane, thence on by the Friends Meeting House & Graveyard and John Wills' Mill, thence through Willingboro over Harding's location by a celebrated Indian Spring and school house nearby Thomas Olive's Mill to Dunk's ferry where is now the City of Beverly."

"Harding's location" is now known as Stokingham and the Indian Spring and School House were located on the James Stokes farm on the Beverly Road, now owned by James W. Jordon. The school house stood on the hillside back of the spring. The John Wills gristmill, to which I will refer in a later chapter, was located in the ravine south of the Friends graveyard on the Centerton Road.

Another ancient highway was laid out in 1712 and extended from near Pemberton to a point, apparently on the Woolman farm, where it joined the Woodpecker Lane road from Burlington. The record of this old road, dated December 30, 1712, reads:¹⁰

"Then laid out one common public highway of four rods in breadth, beginning at John Garwood's land; thence as the path

goes by James Shinn's; thence as the path goes to a run of water by the corner of William Budd's fence; thence through the fenced land in the old path to Thomas Atkinson's; thence along the path by Josiah Gaskill's; thence along the path as it is marked to Thomas Bryan's fence; thence as it is marked over a corner of Lydia Horner's field; thence along by Thomas Bryan's ditch; thence as it is marked to a pine swamp; thence along the path as it is marked to a run of water by Revel Elton's field; thence as it is marked over the said field and over a corner of George Bliss's field and a little field in Joseph Devonish's land till it meets the **old path**; thence along the same, as it is marked to the westernmost side of John Wills' land; thence along the old path, and as it is marked in the township of Willingboro to the Salem road; thence along the same over the bridge to the upland; thence as it is marked by Ralph Cowgill's house; thence as it is marked to Ferry Point."

Laid out by us the day and year above written. Thomas Raper, Joshua Humphries, John Wills, Commissioners.

It would be comparatively easy for those of us who are familiar with the early locations to trace the approximate course of this ancient road. Doubtless it was over this road that John Woolman, when a lad, trudged to the little school house by the Indian Spring and in 1740 walked or rode over it to take up his life work in Mount Holly.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 2

¹ N.J.A. Vol. 12, p. 547.

² Allinson's Laws, Vol. 1. pp. 151-2.

³ These Surveys may be verified in Revel's Book of Surveys, Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton. Abstracts, N.J.A. Vol. XXI.

⁴ N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 353.

⁵ Notes on my Stokes Ancestry, by Joseph Stokes, M.D. Page 14.

⁶ County Clerk's Office, Book V-2, 158.

⁷ Ibid, Road Book A, 47.

⁸ Ibid, 77.

⁹ Woodward and Hageman, 512. This record is undoubtedly correct. The record of the road from Mount Holly to Beverly (Book A, 47) refers to a road from the Woolman Plantation to Burlington. The Woolman Plantation was on the Rancocas opposite the "Forks."

¹⁰ Surveyors Association, 41-2.

Chapter 3

THE OLIVE PLANTATION AND FAMOUS GRISTMILL

THOMAS OLIVE'S plantation, containing 636 acres, was located on the eastern side of Mill Creek, fronting on the Rancocas and extending northward to the village of Charleston. The present Salem Road from Adam's Wharf on Rancocas Creek to Burlington through Charleston was the eastern boundary of the Olive plantation. There are two records of survey for the Olive farm under dates of April 25 and July....., 1682. The first reads:¹

"For Thomas Ollive one parcell of land beginning at a hickory tree in ye lyne of Thomas Eves and runs north, northeast sixty-eight chains to ye creek called Mill Creek and from a black oak there marked, it is bounded along by ye said creek, till it comes neare ye mill, then crossing ye creek it runs from there westward twelve chains to a white oak for a corner, thence west, southwest thirty chains to Rankokus (alias) Northampton River, thence up ye said river to ye mouth of said creek and crossing again the same to a white oak thereby marked for a corner, it goes east and by north twenty five chains to a black oak marked for a second corner neare ye house, thence southeast and by east fifty chains till it reaches the corner tree first aforesaid."

Surveyed for 500 acres

The second survey reads:²

"For Thomas Ollive one parcell of land adjoining to ye land whereon hee, ye said Thomas is seated, beginning at a hickory marked for a corner next ye said land of Thomas Eves, runs by the same south, southwest fifty chains to Rankokus (alias) Northampton River to a black oak marked for a corner, thence by ye river twenty chains to an oake for a second corner, thence north, northeast fifty chains into ye woods to a black oak for a corner neare ye said Thomas Ollive's house, it runs southwest and by west again to ye river, thence up ye same to ye mouth of ye Mill Creek and soe up ye creek to ye land formerly surveyed to ye said Thomas Ollive, as aforesaid."

Surveyed for 136 acres

It is evident from the wording of these surveys, which refer to his gristmill as well as to his house, also that Olive was **seated**, that the early surveys frequently were not recorded until some time after the surveys were made. The gristmill, established in 1679, was undoubtedly the first in Burlington County as we know it today. Mahlon Stacy established a gristmill at the "Falls of the Delaware" (Trenton, formerly in the county) in 1679, possibly a little earlier in the year than the Olive Mill.

The question of the exact location of the Olive mill has been discussed by many writers; one at least stating that it was on the north side of Mill Creek at Charleston. This cannot be correct as the first survey quoted above clearly shows that Thomas Olive did not own any land north of Mill Creek when his gristmill was established. The mill at Charleston, the raceway and dam of which may still be traced, was established by a man named Costill, probably in the 18th century, and is locally known as "Costill's Mill."

Charles Stokes, of Rancocas, an experienced surveyor, in his sketch of Willingboro Township³ stated that the Olive Mill was located on the eastern side of Mill Creek about eighty yards below the bridge on the Rancocas-Beverly Road. His grandfather of the same name, also a prominent surveyor, who was greatly interested in the history of the Rancocas neighborhood, stated in a paper read before the West Jersey Surveyors Association in 1868 that it was located "a little below the bridge on the Beverly-Mount Holly Turnpike."⁴ A careful study of Thomas Olive's first survey for 500 acres clearly indicates that his house and mill were located on the eastern bank of the creek, below the bridge on the Beverly Road. Mill Creek was first called Olive's Mill Creek.

Thomas Olive died in 1692 and left his "Willingborough Farm" to his widow Mary Wills Olive, a daughter of Dr. Daniel Wills. In 1694 Mary Wills Olive married Robert Ewer, of Philadelphia, and in 1696 they sold the plantation to John Test.⁵ Test sold it two years later to John Ward and in 1709 Ward sold it to Hugh Sharp. On September 9, 1761, Sharp sold it to William Coate and in 1749 Coate devised it to his sons Israel and Barzillai, who

had the farm resurveyed and divided. In 1758 Israel Coate conveyed his half to Barzillai.

On March 24, 1773, Barzillai Coate sold the plantation, containing 850 acres, to Solomon Ridgway for 3,000 pounds.⁶ On April 8, 1786, Ridgway conveyed "that part of my Plantation whereon I now dwell" to Joseph Ridgway for 800 pounds.⁷ Joseph was the son of Solomon and the plantation conveyed lay to the south of the Beverly Road. Joseph died intestate in 1793 and the plantation was inherited by his daughter Martha, wife of Daniel Deacon. On December 28, 1833, Martha, widow of Daniel Deacon, sold 171 acres "part of a larger tract received from her father" to Benjamin E. Ridgway for \$3,400.⁸ In 1854 Benjamin Ridgway devised the farm to his grandsons Benjamin R., and Restore B. Lamb, subject to payment to Martha Deacon, widow of Daniel Deacon, of \$1,000.

In 1858 the Lamb brothers sold the farm to Benjamin Ridgway, 100 acres of which was located north of the Beverly Road.⁹ Later it came into the possession of George Warner, who died in 1887. His executors sold the farm, consisting of two lots, to Oliver Parry, father of Edward Parry, author of "Betsy Ross, Quaker Rebel." The conveyance was recorded on July 23, 1888, and the price paid was \$4,250.¹⁰ Lot No. 2 was located south of the road and the survey for same establishes the fact that there was a mill below the bridge at an earlier date. The survey began in the middle of the bridge over Mill Creek, thence:

"Easterly along the Rancocas Road about 34 chains, thence southerly 12 chains, thence westerly 34 chains to Mill Creek, thence up the middle of Mill Creek and **along the old raceway**, the several courses thereof to the place of beginning."

The last course is similarly worded in the deed of March 23, 1858. The old brick house still standing on the 75 acre tract apparently was built by Solomon Ridgway when he purchased the Olive plantation in 1773 from Barzillai Coate. His son Joseph lived in the house for many years. The original road crossed Mill Creek near the Gristmill about eighty yards below the present bridge. The approach across the lowland on the eastern

side of Mill Creek may still be traced and it is possible that this causeway is part of the Olive milldam. The following extracts from the Burlington County Court Book show that the dam was used as a public crossing in the pioneer days:¹¹

"Whereas ye inhabitants of ye towne of Willingborough being met togeather at ye house of Thomas Ollive in ye County of Burlington, have agreed that every loaded cart that shall pass over ye Mill Damme shall pay three pence a tyme, and every empty cart passing over and not returning loaded shall pay two pence a tyme and every horned beast of one year and upward shall pay one penny a head for every tyme going or coming over ye said damme and whosoever shall deny payment shall forfeit his own privilege.

Witness our hands this first day of seventh month, 1692: Thomas ffrench, Thomas Ollive, Thomas Harding, Robert Hudson, John Payne, Richard ffenimore, Abraham Hewlings, John Scott, Thomas Eves."

The second entry relating to the old dam is also of interest to the historical student. It is dated 8th mo, 9th, 1692, shortly after the death of Thomas Olive:¹²

"Alsoe Thomas Ollive in his life tyme and Daniel Wills one of the executors of Thomas Ollive promised that for a bridle way ye inhabitants of Willingborough and all other persons shall have passage over ye mill damme of sd Thomas Ollive but not for a driftway."¹³

Thomas Olive was a London Commissioner and played an important part in the establishment of civil government in West Jersey; serving as the first Speaker of the Assembly and later as Governor of the Province. He served as Justice for several years and there is a most interesting tradition of his having held court in the meadow near his house, using a tree stump as the seat of Justice.

Another interesting anecdote of Thomas Olive, the Quaker preacher, miller and statesman, was told by Henry Armitt Brown in his famous oration at the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Burlington in 1877. "Well Thomas," a customer asked him, "when can my corn be ground?" "I shall be at the Assembly next third

day," replied Thomas, "and shall bring it for thee behind me on my horse." Thomas Olive came from Willingborough, England, and gave the name to Willingboro Township.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 3

- ¹ Revel, 25. N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 351.
- ² Ibid, 28. N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 352.
- ³ Woodward and Hageman, 510.
- ⁴ Surveyors Association, 49.
- ⁵ N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 495.
- ⁶ County Clerk's Office, Book A, 143.
- ⁷ Ibid, Book D, 202.
- ⁸ Ibid, Book I-3, p. 21.
- ⁹ Ibid, Book T-6, p.309.
- ¹⁰ Ibid, Book X-11, p. 154.
- ¹¹ Burlington Court Book, 149.
- ¹² Ibid, 149.
- ¹³ Apparently a driftway was a private road. It is occasionally referred to as such in the early records.

Chapter 4

FRANKLIN PARK FARM

THIS beautiful farm is located about a mile and a half west of Rancocas on the Beverly Road. Historically speaking it is one of the most interesting farms in the county as it was the country seat of Governor William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, for a number of years. It is part of the Thomas French tract of six hundred acres, surveyed in 1684. Until recently it was the home of T. Harvey Buzby, a direct descendant of Nicholas Buzby and of Thomas French. Nicholas Buzby married Mary French, daughter of Thomas, in 1695 and it is interesting to note that his brother Richard married his bride's sister Hannah on the same day.

Franklin Park farm came into the possession of the Buzby family in 1717, when Nicholas Buzby purchased 250 acres of the French plantation from his brother-in-law Charles French. At the time of his father's death Charles French inherited the balance of the plantation. John Buzby, Jr., grandson of Nicholas and Mary, sold the homestead farm to John Smith, of Burlington, in 1763 and the latter conveyed it to Governor Franklin on June 4, 1770, for 2,000 pounds, Proclamation money. The deed, recorded in the Secretary of State's Office, Trenton, reads in part as follows:¹

"All that plantation or tract of land now in the tenure and occupation of the said Wm. Franklin Situate in the Township of Willingborough, formerly called and known by the name Strawberry Hill but now by the name of Franklin Park."

In 1785 William Franklin, then residing in England, an exile from his native land, transferred the property to his son, William Temple.² The deed was witnessed by Benjamin Franklin, his son-in-law Benjamin Franklin Bache and by his friend Jonathan Williams. Temple Franklin, tiring of the life of a Jersey farmer, sold the plantation to Robert Morris, of Philadelphia, in 1790 for 5000 pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania,³ showing that many improvements had been made to the house as



Moses Wills House, 1767. Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. William Spohn Baker.
 Photograph by Mrs. Agnes deCou Budd.



Aaron Wills House, 1786. Courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Hessert.
 Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

well as on the farm since its purchase by the Governor in 1770. The following advertisement appeared in Dunlap's American Advertiser on April 17, 1793:

"FOR SALE—An Estate called Franklin Parke.

Formerly belonging to Governor Franklin and lately the place of residence of W. Temple Franklin, Esq., situate in Burlington county, state of New Jersey, about five miles from the city of Burlington, on Ancocas Creek, and at nearly the same distance from Mount Holly. There is 600 acres of land, partly arable, some meadow and the rest woodland—on which are erected three farm houses, in different places, so that it may be divided into three farms, if desirable or continued in one, at the pleasure of the owner. The principal house was fitted up for his own occupancy by Mr. Franklin, and this estate is deemed to be well adopted for the use of a genteel family as well as for a farm. It has a landing on Ancocas Creek, from which produce can be sent to the Philadelphia Market, being about only fifteen miles distant either by water or by land."

For terms of sale apply in Philadelphia to Robert Morris

It is evident that the farm then extended to the Rancocas at Irish Wharf. In 1794 the plantation was sold to William Bell,⁴ of Philadelphia, apparently as the result of the above advertisement. Mayberry McVaugh, the celebrated school teacher of Rancocas, purchased the part of the farm on which the Governor's Mansion stood, from Joseph Churchman on March 22, 1822,⁵ and later established the Franklin Park Academy, a widely known boarding school for boys.

A two-story dormitory was added at the eastern end of the house and a frame school building on the north side. The school building was connected with the house by an inclosed passage-way, so that the children would not be exposed when passing from one to the other. The McVaugh family lived in a house north of the school on Park Road.

In 1831 Mayberry McVaugh sold to George B. Deacon and Silas Warner "two undivided third parts of Franklin Park Farm for \$2,500 from each party."⁶ Silas Warner died intestate in 1835 and his widow, Sarah A. Warner, conveyed her interest, by order of the Court to McVaugh and Deacon. The latter sold his interest to Mayberry

McVaugh three years later and McVaugh again became the sole owner of the property.

Franklin Park again came into the possession of the Buzby family in 1843 when it was sold by Mayberry McVaugh to Hudson Buzby,⁷ great-grandfather of T. Harvey Buzby who owned the farm until 1941. Hudson Buzby conveyed the farm to his son Richard in 1862⁸ and the executors of Richard Buzby conveyed it to his son Thomas T. Buzby, father of T. Harvey, in 1889.⁹

The attractive brick house, pleasantly located on a knoll by the roadside, commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country, is not the original Governor's Mansion. Governor Franklin's house was erected by John Smith in 1765, two years after he purchased the plantation from John Buzby, Jr. The house now standing does not have an earmark of a Colonial house of the Revolutionary period. All of the brick houses in the neighborhood of Rancocas, erected in the 18th century are distinctly colonial and have the initials of the builders and the year of its erection in black header bricks in the wall in one gable. The bridged double chimney of the house now standing is characteristic of the 1810-1840 period.

The following records seem to be very conclusive:

Barber & Howe's "Historical Collections of New Jersey, 1844, says:¹⁰

"On the site of the Franklin Park Academy . . . formerly stood the mansion of William Franklin, the last of the colonial governors of New Jersey. It was destroyed by fire a few years since."

Charles Stokes, of Rancocas, in a paper read at a meeting of the West Jersey Surveyors Association in 1868, when referring to Franklin Park, said:¹¹

"The old Governor' mansion was destroyed by fire some twenty-five years since, and a new one, erected on nearly the same site, is now owned and occupied by Richard Buzby."

Scott's Atlas of New Jersey, 1876, in a Sketch of Willingboro Township, says:¹²

"On the site of Franklin Park Academy of Rancocas, there formerly stood the mansion of the last Royal Governor, William

Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin. It was destroyed by fire in 1839."

Woodward & Hageman's "History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, 1883, in a Sketch of Willingboro Township, written by Charles Stokes, grandson of the above mentioned Charles, said:¹³

"At one time, after the property went out of the Franklin family it was owned by Mayberry McVaugh, who erected the brick dwelling now standing, and established a boarding school for boys, which was celebrated at that time."

The above quotations seem to definitely prove that the house now standing on the farm was not the residence of the Franklins, father or son. The first quotation is especially convincing as the "Historical Collections" was first published in 1844 and the authors must have been working on it for several years. The testimony of Charles Stokes in 1868 is likewise convincing.

In 1868 Charles Stokes lived in the brick house on the James Stokes farm on the Beverly Road, west of Rancocas and a little more than a mile from Franklin Park. He was forty-eight or fifty years of age at the time that the Governor's mansion was burned.

However, it is but fair to say that when Dr. Asa Matlack Stackhouse visited Rancocas in 1899 he called on Israel Stokes, Jr., then living at "Stokingham," and asked him whether the house then standing on the Park Farm was the residence of Governor Franklin and was told that it was. Israel Stokes and his sister Mrs. Susan Williams, who was then present, stated that their father, Israel Stokes, had frequently told them that the house then occupied by Thomas and Elizabeth Leeds Buzby was the Governor's mansion. The late Howard Wills, who lived less than two miles north of Franklin Park, was of the opinion that it was the house in which the Franklins lived. Mr. Wills, however, was not born until after the house was supposed to have been burned and therefore his evidence was based on tradition.

Benjamin Franklin was said to have visited his son William, the last of the Colonial Governors, at Franklin Park and there carried on experiments in scientific farm-

ing in which both were greatly interested. Governor Franklin's famous Deer Park, still a tradition in the neighborhood, was located north of the mansion on the Park Road. It was irregular in shape, containing upwards of an hundred acres, and was surrounded by a deep ditch and high wire fence.

Governor Franklin and his son William Temple did not approve of the method of farming then prevailing in the neighborhood and did all that they could to improve it. Although they were aristocratic in their manner they were generally well liked by the neighboring farmers. The Governor was a man of pleasing personality and outstanding ability and had he espoused the cause of the colonists would have been one of the most prominent men of the Revolutionary period. However, he remained loyal to the King and was arrested at Perth Amboy in 1776 and banished to Connecticut because of his Tory activities. He died in England in 1813. Franklin Park Farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Loring.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 4

- ¹ Secretary of State's Office, Liber A-B, 422.
- ² Ibid, Liber A-O, 297.
- ³ Ibid, 522.
- ⁴ Ibid, Liber A-R, 469.
- ⁵ County Clerk's Office, Book M-2, p. 592.
- ⁶ Ibid, Book L-3, p. 218.
- ⁷ Ibid, Book E-4, p. 373.
- ⁸ Ibid, Book T-6, p. 545.
- ⁹ Ibid, Book 279, p. 273.
- ¹⁰ Barber and Howe, 122.
- ¹¹ Surveyors Association, 52.
- ¹² Burlington County Atlas, J. D. Scott, 1876, p. XXI.
- ¹³ Woodward and Hageman, 510.

Chapter 5

STOKINGHAM: THE HARDING PLANTATION

THOMAS HARDING located 250 acres of land on the Rancocas a little west of the Centerton Road in 1681. The record of survey reads:¹

"1681, December . . . Return of Survey by Daniel Leeds, for Thomas Harding, of 200 acres on Rancokus River, next John Paine's; also 50 acres at the North end of the 200, next to Wm. Evans."

It is one of the earliest surveys on the northern side of the Rancocas. Rancocas history virtually began in the Harding home, which was beautifully located on the bank of the stream on the site of the present homestead. The first Friends meetings were held in the Harding home early in 1681 as shown by the following records of the Burlington Monthly Meeting:²

At a meeting held in Burlington in First Month, 1681, the following minute was adopted:

"Thomas Harding and John Woolman are desired to give notice to the Friends of Rancocas to confer with Friends here next Monthly Meeting about the meeting there and to give an account of it."

At a Monthly Meeting held at Jno Woolston's house in Burlington ye 2nd of ye mo 1681, a minute records:

"It is agreed yt ye meeting at Rancocas be held at ye house of Tho: Harding both first days and fourth days and to begin on both days at ye 11th hour."

The Rancocas meeting was the first to be "settled" by Burlington Monthly Meeting, therefore it is the second oldest Friends meeting in the county.

Thomas Harding died in 1708 and was buried in the Friends Graveyard on the Centerton Road; at the northern end of which stood the first Quaker meeting house in the community, erected in 1703. He was a passenger on the **Kent** in 1677 and a signer of the Concessions and Agreements, the fundamental law of West Jersey. The

Concessions and Agreements, said to be the work of William Penn, was signed by Penn and about 150 other West Jersey Proprietors, some of whom signed after their arrival in America.

The Harding homestead on the bank of the Rancocas and about 150 acres of land were sold in 1712 to John Stokes, son of Thomas and Mary Barnard Stokes, who settled on the Rancocas above the Forks. John Stokes married Elizabeth Green, daughter of Thomas Green, of England, who is known in family tradition as "Lady Green." The Green family was proud and aristocratic and when Elizabeth formed an attachment for a young man to whom her father violently objected, she with her brother John were sent to the wilderness of West Jersey in the care of Dr. Daniel Wills. A groom was needed to accompany the gay Elizabeth on her rides through the countryside and John Stokes, a dependable young Quaker, was engaged. A very interesting and romantic story has come down to us on the wings of tradition about their courtship and marriage, which is told in Chapter 25 in the sketch of the Stokes Family.

The John Stokes farm was divided by David Stokes, grandson of John and Elizabeth, between his sons Israel and Charles early in the 19th century. Israel Stokes retained the homestead farm on the Rancocas and Charles the northern portion on the Beverly Road. The homestead farm, known locally as "Stokingham," remained in possession of the Stokes family until 1876 when it was sold to Henry H. Troth,³ whose widow Elizabeth Stokes Troth, told the writer about twelve years ago that the Troth family gave the name "Stokingham" to the farm. Stokingham in old English means the Home of the Stokes family. The house, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Ringholm and Mr. and Mrs. William C. Wetherill, is beautifully located on the bank of the Rancocas and is one of the most attractive homes on the stream.

The house now standing on the bluff, until recently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Royston D. Engle, was erected by David Stokes shortly after the Harding home was destroyed by fire in 1800. It was rebuilt and improved by his son Israel, who inherited the farm. The farm is still

owned by Royston D. Engle, grandson of Tylee B. Engle and a direct descendant of Thomas and Mary Barnard Stokes, the pioneers and founders of the Stokes family in West Jersey.

The line of title to "Stokingham" is as follows: Thomas and Elinor Harding, John and Elizabeth Green Stokes, John and Hannah Stogdelle Stokes, David and Ann Lancaster Stokes, Israel and Sarah Borton Stokes, Israel and Caroline Green Stokes, Tylee B. and Annie Stokes Engle, Annie Stokes Engle and Royston D. Engle.

There formerly was a bank or levee along the northern side of the Rancocas which was constructed by the early settlers for preventing the water from overflowing the meadows at high tide or during the spring floods. This bank enabled the farmers to harvest large quantities of "meadow hay." Some of the older residents of the neighborhood recall that their fathers said that they distinctly remembered playing on the bank in their childhood.

The northern end of the Harding plantation was for many years the home of James M. and Eva Bartlett Stokes and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. James W. Jordon, who purchased the farm from Theodore N. Patterson in 1945. The attractive brick house fronting on the Beverly Road, now the home of the Jordon family, was erected by Charles Stokes, grandfather of the late James M. Stokes, in 1816. The famous Indian Spring, to which I will again refer in a later chapter, is located on the Jordon farm near the tenement house. The first schoolhouse in the neighborhood was located back of the Indian Spring on the hillside. The schoolhouse was a one-room affair about twenty feet square and here the children of the early settlers and the Indians from the nearby village were taught the three "R's." It is here, in all probability, that John Woolman, the Journalist, attended school.

Charles Stokes, grandson of the man who built the house, stated in the "History of the Friends School at Ankokas" that "about forty years ago when excavating I saw the foundation walls of this school." I regret that I have been unable to find a record of when the schoolhouse was erected or by whom it was taught. Doubtless it was a Friends School but not under the care of the

Rancocas Meeting.

The farm remained in the Stokes family until the death of James M. Stokes a number of years ago. The line of title to the Jordon farm, after the division of the Harding plantation by David Stokes between his sons Israel and Charles, is as follows: Charles and Tacy Jarrett Stokes, William and Ann McIlvain Stokes, James M. and Eva Bartlett Stokes, Theodore N. Patterson and James W. and Harriet Clayberger Jordon.

The original road from Mount Holly to Beverly ran quite close to the Indian Spring and the late James Stokes informed the writer that in his boyhood the old road could be distinctly traced across his father's farm.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 5

¹ N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 367. Revel, 95.

² The meeting records may be verified at the Friends Book Store, 302 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

³ County Clerk's Office, Book G-9, p. 286.

Chapter 6

THE WILLS PLANTATION AND THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE

THE Wills plantation, located east of the road leading from Rancocas to Centerton is one of the most interesting farms in the neighborhood. Dr. Daniel Wills was a leading London Commissioner and an outstanding and influential pioneer settler. He and family arrived on the **Kent** in 1677 and first settled in Burlington on the western side of High Street, not far from the river. The memorandum of survey for his plantation near Rancocas, dated December 21, 1681, reads:¹

“For Daniell Wills one parcell of land abutting on Rancokus alias Northampton River beginning at John Boarton’s corner stake by the marsh and runs thence westerly by the River forty chains to a stake on the west side of a small creek, thence by the land of John Payne into the woods north, northeast one hundred and twenty-five chains to a white oak marked for a corner, thence south, southwest till it meets a corner stake of John Boarton by whose Lyne it descends down to ye corner stake first mentioned.”

Surveyed for 500 acres

Dr. Daniel Wills, the first doctor to settle in Burlington County, came from Northampton, England, and gave the name “Northampton” to the township. His plantation, now in Westhampton, originally was in Northampton Township. Northampton, in the early days, was one of the largest townships in the county and included the present townships of Westhampton, Easthampton, Southampton and part of Lumberton, as well as the present small township of Northampton, in which Mount Holly is located.

Daniel Wills also located 300 acres north of his home plantation, which was recorded on December 22, 1681. The return of survey reads:²

“For 300 acres, one hundred for George Elkinton and two hundred for Daniel Wills, Jr., on Mill Creek adjoining Daniel Wills, Sr., and John Boarton.”

George Elkinton came over with Dr. Daniel Wills as an indentured servant, to whom he was bound for four years, at the expiration of which he was given one hundred acres in compensation for his faithful service.³ George Elkinton was the progenitor of a prominent Quaker family of Philadelphia and West Jersey. Thomas W. Elkinton, of Moorestown, president of the Philadelphia Quartz Company, is a lineal descendant. Part of the three hundred acres later came into the possession of the Borton family. The eastern section of the brick farmhouse now standing on the road leading to Burlington was erected by George Elkinton, a grandson of the pioneer.

The present brick house on the Wills plantation, standing on the bluff overlooking the Rancocas, now the residence of Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Hessert, was built by Aaron Wills in 1786. The original home of Dr. Daniel Wills stood in Dr. Hessert's lane about one hundred and fifty yards from the Centerton Road.⁴ An Indian village was located not far from the Wills' homestead. The farm is historically interesting as the country residence of Dr. Daniel Wills and for the reason that the first Friends Meeting House and Graveyard were located on the original survey.

THE WILLS GRISTMILL. The Wills gristmill or corn-mill, as gristmills frequently were called in pioneer days, was located in the ravine south of the graveyard on the Centerton Road. It is difficult to realize that the tiny stream that now flows through the ravine once carried sufficient water to turn the wheels of a colonial mill. The spot where the mill was located is now overgrown with trees and bushes but the dam can still be traced. The millstones could be plainly seen from the road sixty or seventy years ago.

William J. Boyd, a former owner of the farm, became interested in my search for the millstones a number of years ago and knowing just where they were located kindly took me to the spot and quickly uncovered them. They had slidden down into the ravine and were completely covered with leaves and debris. I am indebted to Mr. Boyd for locating the millstones. There is an interesting tradition in the Wills family that men rode from



Elkinton-Borton House, near Rancocas, 1765 & 1835. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.



Joseph Bishop House, near Charleston on Mill Creek. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

the neighborhood of Tuckerton with sacks of grain on their horses before Edward Andrews established his mill in that vicinity in about 1704.

The gristmill was one of the first industries established in Burlington County and in pioneer days played an important part in the social and political life of the community. Here the farmers gathered from far and near and while waiting for their corn or wheat to be ground discussed the crops, the weather and politics or perhaps the latest depredations of the wolves among their cattle and sheep. Here also the farmer's sons not infrequently passed a pleasant hour chatting with the miller's daughters.

THE OLD MILL

"Down in yon wood where a streamlet is running
O'er pebbles worn smooth by continuous flow;
There stood an old mill with its wheels slowly turning
In days that are past and a long while ago.

Though now scarce a vestige of all is remaining,
Save the pillars that hold the rude beams of the floor;
While around them the alders are silently growing,
And soon will the forest leaves cover them o'er."

THE OLD BURYING GROUND. The Friends Burying Ground on the Centerton Road, not far from the Ranco-cas, was established shortly after the pioneers arrived early in the 1680's and is still used by the descendants of the old families. The graveyard is on the site of an Indian burying ground and it is said that when digging the graves in the early days the skulls and bones of the natives occasionally were dug up. The following list of the early burials is copied from the Asa Matlack Papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and was copied by him in 1824 from the Wills family records. The list was made by John Wills, son of Dr. Daniel.

Mary Kendall, wife of Thomas, 1687; William Evans, 1688; Judith Olive, first wife of Thomas, 1688; Joseph Wills, son of Dr. Daniel, 1691; Mary Wills, wife of Daniel, 1691; Samuel Wills, son of Daniel, 1692; Thomas Evans, 1692; Elinor Harding, wife of Thomas, 1692; Mary Stokes, wife of Thomas, 1697; Sarah Paine, wife of John, 1701; Ann Green, wife of Edward, 1702;

John Wills, son of John, 1703; Elizabeth Harding, wife of Thomas, 1707; Hannah Eves, wife of Thomas, 1708; Thomas Harding, 1708; John Hudson, son of Robert, 1709; George Elkinton, 1713; Lydia Horner, 1713; Mary Wills, daughter of John, 1714; Mary Elkinton, wife of George, 1714; Rachel Humphries, wife of Joshua, 1714; John Woolman, 1718; Elizabeth Woolman, wife of John, 1718; Hope Wills, wife of John, 1720; Joshua Humphries, 1721; William Wickam, 1721; Hannah Wills, wife of John, 1724; Joseph Elkinton, son of George, 1724; Nicholas Buzby, 1727.

The following later burials are taken from a plan of the Rancocas Burying Ground, drawn by Charles Stokes from data furnished by Daniel Wills in 1872.

Samuel Wills; E. & A. Haines; Samuel Haines, Joseph Wills; Moses Wills; George Stockton; D. Buzby; D. & S. Wills; George Haines; A. & W. Buzby; Jacob and Jonathan Hilyard; Jarvis Stokes; Joseph Lundy; William Scattergood; Joseph Rogers; B. E. Ridgeway; Amos Austin; Thomas, Joseph and William Buzby; Enoch Elkinton; Acher Woolman.

THE FIRST FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE. The first meeting house in the vicinity stood in the open space at the northern end of the graveyard on land presented to the meeting by John Wills, who then owned the farm. Charles Stokes, Jr., in his "History of Friends School at Ankocas," stated that the first Meeting House was built in 1720, which is clearly an error, as shown by the following Burlington Monthly Meeting minutes:⁵

"Ye 4th of ye 11th mo, 1702.

Jno Wills in behalf of ye major part of ye frds, belonging to Rancocas Mtg. made a proposal before this meeting of ye building of a meeting house for themselves by their burying ground, desiring ye council of this meeting & this meeting leaves them to their liberty to proceede."

"Ye 4th of ye 11th mo. 1702.

Jno Wills proposed to this meeting concerning ye ordering and letting of ye meeting house to workmen of Ancocas, this meeting leaving it to ye neighboring friend that lives near ye place, the demensions spoken to at this meeting to be 30 foot long from oute to oute and 22 foot wide from oute to oute and 12 foot in hight on ye wall."

"Ye 7th of ye 12th mo, 1703.

Jno Wills reports to this that their meeting house at Northamp-

ton is fit to meet in, orders yt first days & week days meeting to be kept in it, wch this meeting approveth of and orders that the three weeks meeting formerly kept at Joshua Humphries is now to be kept at the meeting house."

The above meeting records show conclusively that the meeting house was erected in 1703. The following description of the meeting house is copied from the Asa Matlack Papers:

"The first meeting house was probably near the graveyard, and built of logs hewn out of the timber that stood on the ground where the house was placed. It was primitive in the last degree and without any comforts now deemed as necessary. The floor was of clay beaten hard and made even as possible. A single window with four panes of 'Bulls Eye' glass placed in the wall back of where the elders sat, was the only means of light when the door was closed. There may have been an open fireplace and chimney for heating purposes, if not, then the only protection from the cold was found in foot stoves or in warm bricks or stones brought by each family on meeting days and placed under their feet during service."

This description, doubtless based largely on tradition, may not be accurate in all details. The meeting house undoubtedly stood at the northern end of the graveyard but there is no documentary evidence of its having been built of logs. The Springfield Meeting House near Jacksonville, frequently called Copany, erected in 1698, was built of bricks and this house may have been built of the same materiel. Traditionally it was built of logs.

Samuel Wills, born in 1765, has left on record that he could distinctly remember going to meeting in this old meeting house when a small boy.⁶ He remembered that there was a fireplace in the southwest corner, near which the mothers sat with their children in extreme weather. The old meeting house was not taken down until the present one in the village was erected in 1772.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 6

¹ N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 350. Revel, 19.

² Ibid, 350.

³ The Indentured Servants who came to West Jersey were of a different class than those of the Southern Colonies. In no instance

were their services sold on their arrival. Generally speaking they were young men and women of good families, who could not raise the required five pounds for their passage. The men were granted 100 acres by their masters and the young women 40 acres at the termination of their service. Sarah and Elizabeth Curtis, daughters of Thomas Curtis, bound themselves to Benjamin Scott and Elias Farr for four years, for which their masters were bound to give them forty acres. (N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 414)

⁴ Wills family records.

⁵ The meeting records may be verified at the Friends Book Store, 302 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

⁶ The Wills family records.



Dr. Daniel Wills' Chest and Watch. Daniel Wills Collins, of Moorestown, a direct descendant of Daniel Wills, holding the watch. Courtesy of C. Walter Borton, Moorestown. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

Chapter 7

THE WOOLMAN FARM: BIRTHPLACE OF JOHN WOOLMAN

JOHN WOOLMAN, the pioneer, grandfather of the Journalist, accompanied by his father, William Woolman, arrived at Burlington in 1678 and soon afterwards settled on the Rancocas directly opposite the Forks of the North and South Branches of the stream. He was a young man at the time of his arrival and on the "8th of 8th month, 1684," married Elizabeth, daughter of John and Ann Borton, the progenitors of the Borton family in West Jersey. Before leaving England John Woolman purchased 1-32d of a share of land in the new Province from Thomas Hooton,¹ who owned a full share bought from William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas, Trustees of Edward Byllynge's real estate in West Jersey.

Under this Proprietary Right he located 150 acres above the Wills plantation, surveyed by Daniel Leeds in November, 1681.² The farm had a frontage on the Rancocas of five chains (330 feet) and extended northward to Mill Creek, a distance of fully two miles. The map accompanying the survey also plots 110 acres for John Borton and 100 acres for William Petty, adjoining the Woolman farm on the west.

The Woolman farm is now owned by Granville Haines, son of Hudson and Gertrude Leeds Haines and he and his wife Julia Griscom Haines now reside on it. They have two children, Judith and Kenneth Haines. It is interesting to note that the present owner, Granville Haines, is a direct descendant of the pioneer, John Woolman, through his mother Gertrude Leeds Haines who died in 1946.

In January, 1687, John Woolman purchased two hundred acres in West Jersey from John Ridges, of London, through his agent and attorney Samuel Jenings, of Burlington, for the "Sume of Twenty pounds of Currant Money within the said Province." I cannot say where this plantation was located as the deed reads: "to be laid forth & surveyed to & for the sd John Woolman."³ The

deed simply transfers the right to John Woolman to take up 200 acres in West Jersey from any unappropriated land of John Ridges. Ridges owned a half share of land in the Province (about 15,000 acres). The late Gertrude Leeds Haines possessed the original deed bearing the signature of Samuel Jenings, the first Deputy Governor of West Jersey, whose beautiful country home was located on Oxmead Road, near Burlington.

The house in which the Journalist was born is no longer standing, although some of the bricks and certain foundation walls are said to have been used in the construction of the house now standing in 1806. It is frequently stated that Woolman's birthplace was located down the slope towards the creek and about fifty feet east of the driveway; however, I am definitely of the opinion that it stood on the bluff where the home of Granville and Mrs. Haines now stands, as stated by Charles Stokes in his "History of the Friends School at Ankocas."

The tradition that the original Woolman house was located on the hillside, perhaps two hundred feet southeast of the present farmhouse, seems to be based on the fact that bricks have been ploughed up at a certain spot indicating that a house stood there at one time. This, however, is not at all conclusive as the bricks might have been from a tenant house or smoke house. Almost without exception the pioneers selected high land near a navigable stream for their homes largely to avoid the malaria fever and the "mosketto fly." Their appreciation of the beauty of the surrounding countryside also influenced them in selecting high ground but perhaps above all the desire to avoid the axle deep mud on the lowland during the spring thaws.

When Dr. A. Matlack Stackhouse, of Moorestown, visited Granville Leeds in 1899, he had an interesting talk with him about the history of the Woolman farm. In his notes telling of his visit Dr. Stackhouse stated that the house in which the Journalist was born stood near the site of the present house on the bluff. The date-stone of the house in which Woolman was born was placed on the eastern side of the house now standing, which was erected by Granville and Hannah Stokes Woolman in 1806.

It was placed beneath the marker on the residence of Granville Haines but was covered when the house was stuccoed in 1860.

The date-stone from the first brick house bore the letters J & E W and the date 1703. The initials undoubtedly stand for John and Elizabeth Woolman, grandparents of the Journalist. As John and Elizabeth were married in 1684 it is probable that their first home was a log house. Granville Leeds told Dr. Stackhouse on the occasion of his visit in 1899 a very interesting story about an Indian named Ashatama who lived on the farm in a log cabin near the creek.

The anecdote was related to Granville Leeds by his grandfather, Dr. Granville Woolman. Ashatama came to the home of Dr. Woolman's father, Granville Woolman, and asked him for some cider, of which he was very fond. He was told that he could have as much as he could carry in a bushel basket and the Indian without saying a word returned to his cabin and proceeded to weave a basket, making the meshes as small as possible. He then carried the basket to the creek and after soaking it in the water hung it on a nearby tree and as the weather was severely cold the basket was soon water tight. The Indian then returned to the farmhouse and demanded his bushel of cider. Granville Woolman, realizing that he had been outwitted, filled the basket with cider. Ashatama is said to have been buried in the Friends Graveyard at Rancocas.

Elisha Ashatama was born in the neighborhood of Tuckerton, formerly in Burlington County. According to tradition he departed with the Reservation Indians in 1802 on their trek to Oneida County, New York, but not liking his new home returned on foot to his old haunts in Burlington County. It is probable that he settled on the Woolman farm shortly after his return, as the Reservation lands were sold in 1802.

The line of title to the Woolman farm is as follows: John Woolman, the pioneer, Samuel Woolman, Asher Woolman, Granville Woolman, Dr. Granville Woolman, Jacob H. Leeds, Granville W. Leeds, Gertrude Leeds Haines, Granville Haines, the present owner.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 7

¹ N.J.A. Vol. XXI, 394. Secretary of State's Office, Liber B, 1.

² Besse's Book of Surveys, 162. Secretary of State's Office.

³ The deed is printed in John Woolman's Journal, Rancocas Edition, 593-595.

Chapter 8

JOHN WOOLMAN'S CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

VERY little is known of the childhood and youth of John Woolman, born near the village of Rancocas on October 19, 1720, other than that which he tells in his Journal. He was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Burr Woolman; the oldest of seven brothers and one of thirteen children. I love to think of the saintly Quaker as a lad playing on the bank of the Rancocas with his brothers and sisters or wandering in the woods in search of adventure. Doubtless he enjoyed playing with the Indian children from the nearby villages or riding with them in their canoes on the Rancocas which flowed past his father's farm.

He tells us far too little of his boyhood days in his Journal yet perhaps enough to show that he was a normal though deeply gifted child. In the opening paragraphs of his Journal, begun in his thirty-sixth year, he relates an incident of his childhood which shows the spiritual depth of his nature as well as the beauty of his imagination.¹

"Before I was seven years old I began to be acquainted with the operations of Divine love. Through the care of my parents I was taught to read nearly as soon as I was capable of it and as I went from school one day, I remember that while my companions were playing by the way, I went forward out of sight, and sitting down, I read the twenty-second chapter of Revelation: And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb &c. In reading it my mind was drawn to seek after that pure habitation which I believed God had prepared for his servants. The place where I sat, and the sweetness that attended my mind, remain fresh in my memory."

The well-known incident of the killing of the mother robin, as told in his Journal, which so beautifully illustrates his deep love for all of God's creatures, also suggests the normal and active country lad. Many of us who

were raised on farms can recall similar thoughtless incidents in our boyhood days. Quoting from his Journal:²

"On going to a neighbor's house, I saw on the way a robin sitting on her nest, and as I came near she went off; but having young ones, she flew about, and with many cries expressed her concern for them. I stood and threw stones at her, and one striking her she fell down dead. At first I was pleased with the exploit, but after a few minutes was seized with horror, at having, in a sportive way, killed an innocent creature while she was careful for her young. I beheld her lying dead, and thought those young ones must now perish for want of their dam to nourish them. After some painful considerations on the subject, I climbed up the tree, took all the young birds and killed them, supposing that better than to leave them to pine away and die miserably. In this case I believed that Scripture proverb was fulfilled, 'The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.'"

Again quoting from his Journal:³

"About the twelfth year of my age, my father being abroad, my mother reproved me for some misconduct, to which I made an undutiful reply. The next first-day, as I was with my father returning from meeting, he told me that he understood I had behaved amiss to my mother, and advised me to be more careful in future. I knew myself blamable, and in shame and confusion remained silent."

"Having attained the age of sixteen years, I began to love wanton company; and though I was preserved from profane language or scandalous conduct, yet I perceived a plant in me which produced much wild grapes; my merciful Father did not, however, forsake me utterly, but at times, through his grace, I was brought seriously to consider my ways; and the sight of my backslidings affected me with sorrow, yet for want of rightly attending to the proofs of instruction, vanity was added to vanity, and repentance to repentance."⁴

His struggles with temptation, his frequent falls and final victory are graphically told in his Journal. The school which John Woolman attended undoubtedly was the one on the James Stokes farm, now owned by James W. Jordon, west of the village of Rancocas. The school-house and the "flowering magnolias" are gone and the water no longer gushes from the hillside "clear as crystal."



Asher Woolman House, near Rancocas, 1754. Photograph by N. R. Ewan



Rancocas Creek at the Forks. View from the Woolman Farm, near the site of John Woolman's Birthplace. Photograph by N. R. Ewan. Courtesy of Mrs. Granville Haines.

The old road which crossed the Woolman farm not far from the house, over which he trudged to school, the meeting house by the graveyard in which he worshipped with his parents, the gristmill in the ravine around which he played are gone but the memory of John Woolman still lives and his beautiful spirit still hovers over the peaceful and friendly neighborhood.

John Woolman was not a rugged youth and this may have been the reason why he left his father's farm when twenty years of age. In 1740, doubtless with his parents consent, he engaged with a shop keeper in Mount Holly "to tend shop and keep books." Thus in his twenty-first year the saintly and gifted Quaker gave up the life of a farmer to become a successful merchant and tailor and the leading crusader of his day for the liberation of the slaves. Mount Holly was then a village of about one hundred homes and it must have been an epochal event in the life of the country lad.

I not infrequently visit the Woolman farm and have always received a cordial welcome from my friends Granville and Julia Griscom Haines. I love to tread the earth where John Woolman walked and picture him as a child playing on the bank of the Rancocas and to watch the waters flow past the farm even as they did when he was a lad.

"To turn all the treasures we possess into the channels of universal love, becomes the business of our lives."

I know of no man who has lived up to this perfect maxim, quoted from his Journal, more fully than John Woolman, the Rancocas farm boy.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 8

¹ John Woolman's Journal, Whittier Edition, 51-52.

² Ibid, 52-53.

³ Ibid, 53.

⁴ Ibid, 54.

Chapter 9

LANDMARKS

WITHIN a radius of three miles from the center of Rancocas there are eight brick dwellings and one brick meeting house which were erected in the eighteenth century and one brick-paned frame house in the seventeenth. The neighborhood is rich in colonial landmarks and when in the shadow of these ancient abodes it is easy to picture in our minds the manner of life of our forefathers. Their lives were quiet and peaceful as compared to ours and yet not without adventure and romance. They did not miss the auto, radio, oil burner and other modern conveniences because they knew them not. Who can say that they were less happy and contented than we of this noisy and exacting age? The following landmarks are arranged in order of their construction.

GROVATT HOUSE. This ancient farmhouse, now the residence of William and Louisa Grovatt, was erected in the 1680's and undoubtedly is the oldest in the neighborhood, if not in the county. It stands north of the village on the Green plantation which extended southward to Rancocas Creek. It was built by John Green, son of Thomas Green, of England, for his father who apparently never came to this country. The central section of this old frame house evidently is the oldest. The pent-roof, hand-hewn weather boards, HL hinges and Chippendale latches, the corner fireplace and small window panes, all suggest seventeenth century construction. Title to the farm can be traced from Thomas Green to the Grovatt family as follows:

1681 Thomas Green, of England.

John Green, son of Thomas, by inheritance.

1732 Thomas Green, son of John, by inheritance.

1755 Aaron Wills, by purchase from the executors of Thomas Green.¹

- 1767 Samuel Haines, by purchase from Aaron and Rachel Wills.
- 1820 Robert W. Haines, son of Samuel, by inheritance.² Robert Haines died intestate in about 1862 and the farm passed to his children.
- 1862 The children of Robert W. Haines. The daughter, Rebecca Ann, married Jacob H. Wills.
- 1869 Rachel Haines et als purchased the farm from Jacob H. Wills and the children of Robert W. Haines.³
- 1885 William Haines purchased the farm (63 acres) from Rachel Haines et als.⁴ William Haines died in 1927 and stated shortly before his death that the house was then 240 years old.
- 1927 William F. and Louisa Grovatt purchased the property from Clifford Powell, Special Master in Chancery.⁵

ASHER WOOLMAN HOUSE. This interesting old brick house is located on the Mount Holly Road, east of Rancocas, at the entrance of the lane leading to the home of Granville and Mrs. Haines. It stands on the John Woolman farm, surveyed for the pioneer in 1681, on which the Journalist was born.

The house was built by Asher Woolman in 1754, according to a statement made by Granville Leeds many years ago. The date, 1754, was painted on the date-stone. Asher Woolman was a younger brother of the Journalist and inherited the Woolman farm at the time of the death of his father Samuel Woolman in 1750. The old house is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Friend.

JOSEPH BUZBY HOUSE. This attractive eighteenth century brick homestead, erected by Joseph Buzby in 1764, is located on Mill Creek about a mile and half northwest of Rancocas. The house is now the residence of Joseph and Florence Lundy Wills. The western and southern walls are made with black header bricks alternating with red stretcher bricks, which give the house a decided colonial appearance. The house stands at the corner of two roads and it is interesting to note that the ornamental walls face the roads so that they may be seen by those passing by. The Quaker of ye olden time surely knew how to put his best foot forward.

The initials JHB and the year 1764, during which it was erected, were built in the western gable with glazed header bricks. The initials stand for Joseph and Hannah

Buzby. The interior of the house is no less attractive than the exterior. Old Dutch tiles surround one of the fireplaces and there are other features suggesting a colonial house.

URIAH BORTON HOUSE. This old brick farmhouse is located on the road leading to Burlington not far from Mill Creek. The eastern section was erected by George Elkinton, grandson of the pioneer of the same name, in 1765. The western end of the house was built by Joseph Borton, a descendant of John Borton, the pioneer.

Uriah Borton, son of Joseph, who was born in the old house, sold the farm in 1907 to Charles MacFarland. In 1890 Uriah Borton and family moved to Moorestown, since which year Mr. MacFarland had rented the farm on shares. William J. Borton, son of Uriah Borton, is now living in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The date stone on

E

the eastern end of the house is marked G S and
1765

JSB 1835, which initials stand for George and Sarah Elkinton and Joseph and Sarah Borton. The house and barn are on opposite sides of the road which is rather unusual. It is probable that the Burlington road followed a different course in the early days.

SOLOMON RIDGWAY HOUSE. This old brick farmhouse stands on the original plantation of Thomas Olive, near Mill Creek and south of the Rancocas-Beverly road. It was probably built by Solomon Ridgway when he purchased the farm from Barzillai Coate in 1773. The last time that the writer examined the old house, perhaps ten years ago, it was used as a store house by the owner of the farm. It was located quite near Thomas Olive's famous gristmill. It was the home of Solomon Ridgway and his sons Joseph and Benjamin for many years.

HOWARD WILLS HOUSE. The home of the late Howard Wills is located on the north side of Mill Creek and not far from the Joseph Wills residence on the south side. The Howard Wills' house was built in 1780, as indicated in one gable. The builder is unknown to the writer. The front of the house and one end are of Flemish Bond simi-

lar to the Joseph Wills home. A large buttonwood stands in front of the house near the porch.

THOMAS BUZBY HOUSE. This interesting brick farmhouse stands on the bank of the Rancocas at the mouth of a small tributary. It is located on the Thomas French plantation and doubtless is one of three farmhouses mentioned in Robert Morris' Advertisement advertising the Franklin Park Farm, appearing in Chapter 4. The house is reached by a long and picturesque lane leading from the Beverly road, about a mile and a half west of Rancocas. It is pleasantly on the bluff and commands a beautiful view of the Rancocas and the country beyond.

The initials of the builders and the year of its erection appear on the western gable in black header bricks,
B

arranged as follows: T T. The initials stand for
1783

Thomas and Tabitha Buzby, who built the house in 1783. Thomas Buzby purchased the farm in 1770 and doubtless there was an earlier house on the farm, which probably was built of logs. The house faces the Rancocas and the front wall is of Flemish Bond. The farm is now owned by Abraham Perkins, of Beverly, and is farmed by J. Cresswell Stuart of Salem Road.

WILLS HOMESTEAD. This attractive 18th century brick house stands on the Dr. Daniel Wills' plantation, east of the Centerton Road. It was erected by Aaron Wills, a descendant of Dr. Daniel, in 1786 as shown on the western gable. The initials in glazed header bricks are
W

arranged as follows: A R, standing for Aaron and
1786

Rachel Wills. The house is pleasantly located on the bluff overlooking the meadows and creek and contains many interesting colonial features. The window panes are small; some of them being iridescent showing that they were in the house when built.

The property was recently bought by Dr. E. C. Hessert, of Audubon, N. J. and is now the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Hessert. They have greatly improved the interior of the house but have retained many of the colon-

ial features as they are greatly interested in the history of the old mansion.

The residence of Dr. Daniel Wills, the progenitor of the Wills family in West Jersey, stood in Dr. Hessert's Lane about 150 yards from Centerton Road, near the stump of a large Chestnut tree. In the early days there was a landing on the Rancocas from which the Wills family sent the produce of the farm to the Philadelphia market. It must be remembered that transportation was almost entirely by boat or horseback in the pioneer days.⁶

LUNDY HOUSE. The Lundy House stands on the John Payne Plantation surveyed in 1681 and is located just west of the Rancocas-Centerton Road. Joseph Lundy, of the County of Sussex, purchased the farm from Samuel Ellis in 1810. The farm then contained 163 acres and extended northward for more than a mile. The consideration was \$5,733.33.⁷

The attractive house now standing, overlooking the Rancocas, is now the home of Mr. & Mrs. William Spohn Baker who purchased the property in 1931. The central portion of the old house was built prior to the Revolutionary War, probably by Moses Wills, who bought the farm from Aaron Wills in 1766.⁸ The large chimney at the western end of the old part of the house indicates the house was built in the 18th century. The eastern end was erected in 1820, as indicated by a brick on which the date is given. The bridged chimney is characteristic of the 1800-1840 period. The western end was built at a later date.

BISHOP HOUSE. This old brick house is located on Mill Creek west of the village of Charleston. The lane leads to the Old Salem Road, near Charleston. The writer called on the late Joseph Bishop ten or fifteen years ago and found him to be a very courteous old gentleman and greatly interested in the history of the neighborhood. Mr. Bishop stated that the house was built by William Ridgway in 1789, as stated on one end of the house in

M

black header bricks, arranged as follows: W R. The
1789

initials, according to Mr. Bishop, stand for William and Mary Ridgway. If he was correct—and I have no reason to doubt it—the arrangement of the letters is different than on any other house in the county. The letter above, in all other instances, stands for the family name of the builder, rather than for the name of the wife. The Ridgway family owned many farms in the neighborhood at that time and Mr. Bishop undoubtedly was correct.

FRANKLIN PARK MANSION. The house now standing was probably built by Mayberry McVaugh in about 1839. McVaugh, the schoolmaster of Rancocas, purchased Franklin Park Farm in 1822. The brick homestead is pleasantly located on a knoll on the Beverly Road, a little more than a mile west of Rancocas. The farm was purchased by William Franklin, the last of the Royal Governors, in 1770 and the house, thought by some to be the Governor's Mansion, is a famous landmark in the neighborhood.⁹

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE. The Quaker Meeting House on Main Street was erected in 1772, as stated on the eastern end. It is built of bricks and is one of the best cared for and most attractive meeting houses in the county. Since the Separation in the Society in 1827-8 the property has belonged to the "Hicksite Friends." John Woolman, who was born near Rancocas in 1720, never worshipped in it as he departed for England on May 1, 1772, never to return. It is probable that the building was under construction when he departed.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 9

- ¹ Secretary of State's Office, Liber S., 498.
- ² Surrogate's Office, Mount Holly, Book C, 56.
- ³ County Clerk's Office, Book D-8, p. 417.
- ⁴ Ibid, Book E-11, p. 450.
- ⁵ Ibid, Book 691, p. 216.
- ⁶ Further account of the Wills farm in Chapter 6.
- ⁷ County Clerk's Office, Book V-2, page 158.
- ⁸ Recited in the Lundy Deed.
- ⁹ For further account of Franklin Park see Chapter 4.

Chapter 10

RANCOCAS VILLAGE

THE attractive and homelike village of Rancocas, established in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, has a most interesting history. It was an exceptionally cultured center during the nineteenth and early years of the present century. Gordon's Gazetteer of New Jersey (1834) when listing the towns and villages of Burlington County does not mention Rancocas and Barber and Howe's Historical Collections of New Jersey (1844) refers to it as "a new and handsome village." Woodward and Hageman's History of Burlington and Mercer Counties (1883) in a sketch of Rancocas, says: "It is in the memory of some now living when there was but one dwelling house where the village now stands." Centerton Bridge, erected in 1832 and the laying out of the present road to Rancocas in 1831,¹ marked the beginning of the development of the village. The Rancocas Post Office was established in 1838.²

I am convinced that there was a cluster of houses near the first Friends meeting house, north of the graveyard on Centerton Road and the Wills gristmill in the ravine south of the graveyard, that was known as Rancocas before the present village was founded. John Brainerd, who died in 1781, frequently referred to his preaching station "at Rancokes." In 1720, when the Burlington Monthly Meeting appointed a committee representing its preparative meetings to collect funds for the building of the meeting house at Mount Holly, Hugh Sharp was named "for Northampton att Rancokes." The first meeting house, erected in 1703, stood at the north end of the graveyard and the old road from Mount Holly to Beverly crossed the Centerton Road at the entrance of Dr. Hesser's lane.

The oldest building now standing in Rancocas is the Quaker Meeting House, erected in 1772, as stated on the eastern gable. It would be pleasant to associate John Woolman with this attractive building but as the Jour-

nalist left for England on May 1, 1772, never to return, he never saw it when completed. It is attractively located on Main Street, which, as suggested by my friends Engle and Ann Conrow, should be renamed "Woolman Road" in honor of the great Quaker. The road was surveyed in 1771.³

At the time of the tragic Separation in the Society of Friends in 1827-1828 the meeting house property was retained by the "Hicksite Friends." It is neither the time or place to discuss the causes of the separation in our Society but perhaps it will be right to say that had each party exercised greater love and Christian charity in all probability the separation would not have taken place. I am truly thankful to say that the old bitterness between the two branches of the society has entirely disappeared and that the "Orthodox" and "Hicksite" Friends dwell side by side in a spirit of mutual respect and with a large measure of Christian fellowship. The day is not far distant, I fully believe, when there will be but one Religious Society of Friends in the Philadelphia area.

After the Separation the "Orthodox" Friends worshipped for a time in the Hall over the blacksmith shop on Bridge Street, which recently has been converted into two apartments. Afterwards, at the invitation of the "Hicksites," the "Orthodox" meeting was held in the eastern end of the meeting house. A good story was told to the writer by a Friend, a former resident of Rancocas, about a certain Sabbath when a prominent "Hicksite" minister visited the Rancocas meeting and arriving somewhat late entered the "Orthodox" meeting by mistake. He preached so acceptably that a prominent woman Friend invited him to dine at her home.

The oldest dwelling house in Rancocas stands at the southeast corner of Main and Bridge Streets, the late home of Maurice Lundy. It was erected late in the eighteenth century. It was owned by Samuel Wills early in the nineteenth century, and, according to Woodward and Hageman, Jacob Cowgill, a weaver, had two looms in the basement. Ezra Haines purchased the property from Samuel Wills in 1829⁴ and added the western end

of the house. The lot at that time contained a little over three acres, on which a small house was standing. Maurice Lundy purchased the property in 1911 and made further improvements.

The second oldest house in the village is the little brick residence on the Beverly Road at the western edge of Rancocas and on the south side of the road. It was erected in 1810 by the Friends Meeting for the use of John Gummere, who taught the Friends School. The attractive frame house to the east of the master's dwelling was built in 1837. It formerly was the home of Samuel and Mary Haines and the final meetings of the "Orthodox Friends" were held in it.

The house and store property at the corner of the Centerton Road, now owned by William and Mary Stevens who conduct the store at the present time, was formerly owned by Jacob H., and Margaret W. Leeds. Jacob Leeds conducted the store for many years. The double brick house west of the store, the former home of Dr. Granville Woolman, and the residence of the late Frank Hilliard on East Main Street are among the older houses in the village. With the exception of the Lundy House and the Schoolmaster's dwelling these houses all were built after 1832, when the Centerton Bridge was erected.

The brick house on the northern side of Main Street, opposite the Stevens' store on the corner, the residence of the late Rachel Haines, formerly was the home of George B. and Susan Wills Borton, by whom it was erected in 1863. George Borton's store was in a separate building that stood east of his residence. He was a lineal descendant of John Borton, the pioneer, and Mrs. Borton was a direct descendant of Dr. Daniel Wills, the founder of the Wills family in West Jersey.

C. Walter Borton of Moorestown, a former Vice President of the Provident Trust Company and George W. Borton, a prominent business man of Philadelphia, are sons of George B. and Susan Wills Borton and were born in Rancocas. They take great pride in the history of their native village and its surrounding country. Walter Borton possesses the watch and cedar chest that his ances-



Friends Meeting House, Rancocas, 1772. Photograph by
William H. Roberts, Sr.



Friends Schoolhouse, Rancocas, 1822. Photograph by William H. Roberts, Sr.

tor Dr. Daniel Wills brought over with him on the ship **Kent** in 1677. A set of Dr. Wills' surgical instruments is now owned by the Burlington County Historical Society and may be seen at its headquarters, 457 High Street, Burlington.

The little brick schoolhouse now standing on Main Street in the center of the village was erected in 1822, rather than 1807 as stated on the date stone. I was told by a resident of Rancocas many years ago that 1807 was painted on the date stone at the time of the School Celebration in 1913. The following meeting records were kindly sent to the writer by the late John Russell Hayes, who was Librarian of the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College at that time. The records prove conclusively that the building was erected in 1822.

At Ancocas Preparative Meeting held the 3d of the 1st mo, 1822—

"The Trustees appointed to superintend the School, report . . . that the house in which the School is held is so old and out of repair that they cannot indulge a reasonable hope of its being suitable for the purpose of a School for another year, they therefore suggest to the Preparative Meeting the propriety of authorizing the succeeding Trustees to build a new house on the lot whereon the present one stands within the ensuing year."

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,
Charles Stokes, Clk.

The former schoolhouse, a frame building, was erected in 1773. The new schoolhouse was authorized at the Preparative Meeting held in Second Month, 1822. The following minute of the Ancocas Meeting, dated the 30th of First Month, 1823, definitely proves that the schoolhouse now standing was built in 1822:

"The Trustees of the School reported that a school house had been erected agreeable to the direction of the Preparative Meeting in second month last, and that the whole expense including the price of a new stove etc is 559.23, leaving a balance in favor of the School fund of 1.64 cts."

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,
Charles Stokes, Clk.

The schoolhouse is still owned by the Rancocas Meeting but has been converted into a dwelling, which for several years was the home of the late Elizabeth Leeds Buzby, who was greatly beloved by all who knew her. At the time of the division in the Society of Friends and for several years afterwards the children of both branches attended school in the brick schoolhouse but as "love and unity" did not fully prevail, the "Orthodox" Friends built a schoolhouse back of the present meeting house. The "Orthodox" Meeting was laid down in 1924; the meetings for worship, as already stated, being held during the last years in the home of Samuel and Mary Haines.

The little Quaker schoolhouse by the roadside, was at one time the center of the intellectual life of the community. An interesting article could be written about the gifted young men and women who taught in this school but in this brief sketch of the village I can but refer to a few of the outstanding teachers. John Gummere, a young man of exceptional ability, was engaged to teach the school in 1800 at an annual salary of two hundred dollars. His salary was raised to three hundred and fifty dollars in 1810 and as a further inducement a dwelling house was erected for him in the western edge of the village.

John Gummere taught the Rancocas School until 1811 when he moved to Burlington and in 1815 established his "Academy for Boys" on East Union Street, which became famous among the educational institutions of that period. He became one of the founders of Haverford College and later was chosen Superintendent, as the presidents were first called. Charles Stokes succeeded him as teacher of the Rancocas School and had charge of the school until 1817, with the exception of a brief period in 1815.

Mayberry McVaugh, a young man of character and ability, succeeded Charles Stokes at a salary of three hundred and sixty dollars and the use of the little brick house on West Main Street. He was a gifted teacher and the high standing of the school was maintained while under his care. A village school, however, could not long hold the interest of a man of McVaugh's ability and

in 1822 he purchased Franklin Park farm, where a few years later he established his famous Boys Academy. His Academy apparently was not opened until 1831 as the meeting records show that he taught in Burlington in 1829 and 1830.

He erected a dormitory at the eastern end of the house at Franklin Park and the school was conducted in a frame building that stood north of the house, the two buildings being connected by an inclosed passageway. Thomas Buzby, who formerly owned the farm, took the dormitory down and moved the school building in 1889 to the Park Road near his residence, where I believe it is now standing.

Rachel G. Hunt, one of the school's most scholarly and successful teachers, assumed charge of the Rancocas School in 1857 and remained for two years when she accepted a position in Beverly as principal of a school. In 1861 the trustees of the school, James McIlvain, Jarrett Stokes, William A. Scattergood, David Ferris, Benjamin Hilyard and Uriah Haines, induced her to return and stipulated in the agreement that the schoolhouse would be refurnished with modern equipment. The old desks and benches were discarded, the house painted and the walls calcimined. New desks and blackboards were installed and a modern dictionary and an atlas were purchased for the use of the students.

The little brick schoolhouse by the roadside soon became famous as one of the best equipped schools in the county. Joseph Lancaster, of England, founder of the Lancastrian School System, spent a number of weeks with relatives in Rancocas and highly praised the school as it was then conducted. T. Chalkley Matlack, of Moorestown, who passed away in 1946, ripe in years and wisdom, apparently was the last of the many teachers of the Rancocas Friends School.

LIBRARY AND LITERARY SOCIETIES.⁵ The story of Rancocas would be incomplete without referring to its library and literary societies, the most famous of which was known as the Rancocas Lyceum. The Library Com-

pany was organized at a meeting held in the Friends schoolhouse on "Second Month 14th, 1859," with a contributing membership of forty-one. The first directors were: Charles Stokes, Daniel Wills, James S. Hansell, Samuel Williams, David Ferris and James Hilyard. Charles Stokes was elected President, Samuel C. Woolman, Secretary, James Hilyard, Treasurer and Jervis S. Woolman, Librarian. The library first was kept in the hall over the blacksmith shop on Bridge Street. At a later date it was housed in a little building, erected for the purpose, which is now standing on the Maurice Lundy property at the corner of Main and Bridge Streets.

The first Literary Society in Rancocas, of which I have found a record, was organized in 1814 and known as "The Literary and Philological Society." Charles Stokes, then master of the Friends School was one of the organizers and very likely its first president, as he was very active in intellectual affairs at that time. John Comley William Hilyard, Robert and Thomas Haines, David Stokes, Richard Lundy, Fenton Elkinton and Abel Buzby were active members. The meetings of the Society were held in the frame schoolhouse that stood on the site of the brick schoolhouse on Main Street.

"The Beneficial Society of Rancocas" was organized in 1838 and met in the Friends Schoolhouse for a number of years. Very little is known of its activities other than that they were intellectual and social rather than benevolent.

Another literary society was organized in 1862 and met for a number of years in the schoolhouse but afterwards in the homes of its members. It was known as "The Select Literary Society." Rachel G. Hunt was in charge of the Friends School at the time of its organization and doubtless took a prominent part in its activities. Dr. Granville Woolman, John Hunt, Jacob H. Leeds, Jarrett, Israel and Charles Stokes, James S. Hansell, Benjamin Ridgway and Benjamin Hilliard were active members.

"The Rancocas Lyceum," perhaps the most famous literary society in Burlington County, was organized in 1871 and met for many years in the Friends School House. Elizabeth Deacon Stokes, who afterwards married Henry

H. Troth, was the first to suggest organizing a literary society at that time and was chosen its first Secretary. Her daughter, Mrs. Lillian McCarl, of Moorestown, gave the writer this information. Albert Hansell was elected the first president of the Lyceum.

The meetings of the Society were held weekly from October to April and were largely attended, not only by the people of the neighborhood but also from other communities within driving distance. Mount Holly, Medford, Fellowship, Moorestown, Mount Laurel, Westfield, Hainesport and Burlington were usually represented at its meetings. The entertainments were mostly home talent and consisted of essays, readings, recitations, declamations, dialogues, charades and debates. Jacob and Horace Haines, of Westfield, rendered selections from Shakespeare so acceptably that the Lyceum frequently was called the "Quaker Theatre."

The Lyceum grew so rapidly in membership and attendance that the little brick schoolhouse proved too small to accommodate the audience, especially when the program for the evening called for a debate. In 1877 the Society erected a building for its own use on the north side of Main Street, east of the Friends Meeting House. The hall had a seating capacity of nearly five hundred and frequently was well filled. The building is still standing and is now used as the Town Hall and Fire Engine House. Nearly all of the cultured families of the neighborhood, and doubtless some from a distance, subscribed to the building fund.

The Lyceum's membership comprised the better educated and most cultured residents of Rancocas and vicinity and many from nearby towns. Among the most active and influential members I find the names of William R. Lippincott, Dr. J. D. Janney, William, Oliver and Charles Parry, Nancy Haines, Henry C. Herr, Albert Hansell, Henry H. Leeds, Josephine Borton, Dr. Franklin C. Haines, Cyrus Moore, Martha Engle, Horace and Jacob Haines, Lizzie and Annie Stokes, George and Charles P. Wills and John Sholl.

The parlor literary society and lyceum, though not

necessarily Quaker institutions, have always flourished in Quaker communities and their passing is to be deeply regretted. The mingling of old and young in intellectual fellowship had an educational as well as a social value that cannot be fully measured today. We of the older generation look back to these gatherings with a joy and satisfaction that even the memory of long rides through snow or rain and over roads of mud or sand cannot lessen.

Like many other towns and cities of the Northern States, Rancocas also had its "Union League." It was organized in 1861 and continued until after the Civil War closed.⁶ It met regularly over the blacksmith shop on Bridge Street.

CENTERTON. The bridge that spans the Rancocas at Centerton was built in 1832, as stated above. It is probable that the village was established at about the same time. A tavern was erected in the village which is no longer standing. The old stone house on the road to Masonville, or Five Points of the olden time, is undoubtedly the oldest house in the village. In 1880 there were only nine or ten houses in Centerton. I. W. Heuling & Son, of Moorestown established a Lumber and Coal Yard in Centerton about 1870.

Rose and Lowell founded the "Rancocas Chemical Works" in 1870 on Rancocas Creek about a half mile above Centerton.⁷ George Rose was an Englishman who was brought to this country by Powers and Weightman, a well known firm of Chemists in Philadelphia. Mr. Rose worked for this firm for five years and then formed a partnership with Mr. Lowell, a wealthy chemist from New Orleans. They established the plant at a place then called Magnolia Springs but now known as Texas. The Rose family gave the name of Texas to the community because it was so remote and wild.

At the height of their prosperity Rose and Lowell employed more than seventy-five men and the buildings covered four acres of ground, surrounded on three sides with a board fence ten feet high. The pond in front of the plant was then about 1000 feet long and 100 feet wide.⁸ In this plant the first stick of phosphorus in the United

States was made, which is said to be at the Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia.

In 1873 on account of the low price of phosphorus and the high cost of the materials used in its manufacture the firm got into financial difficulties and the plant was sold by the Sheriff to Gibbs, Deacon & Newbold. Mr. Newbold was a silent partner but visited the works almost daily from his home in Mount Holly. Mr. Deacon soon withdrew from the firm leaving Amos Gibbs to carry on the business. Mr. Gibbs made fertilizer for J. J. Allen, of Philadelphia, but continued to manufacture phosphorus.

J. J. Allen's Sons, of Philadelphia, purchased the plant in about 1885 and established the "Rancocas Fertilizer Works."⁹ Jacob H. Leeds, of Rancocas, was General Agent for the concern. A Sulphur Match Factory was conducted in the old mill that formerly stood at the head of the mill pond and in 1899 the "Diamond Match Company" bought the plant, dynamited the buildings and sold the machinery as junk. The last smoke stack was taken down early in the present century and the only building now standing is the small office near the entrance to the plant. Slag and broken crucibles may be seen on the bank of the creek. When Mr. Ewan and I visited the site of the mills several gunners were hunting rabbits where the factory once stood.

The Sea Scouts have built a Camp on the Rancocas near the wharf from which Rose and Lowell and the later concerns shipped their products to Philadelphia or other points. An interesting feature of the Scout Camp is the cabin or pilot house from an old steamer or tug-boat with the deck outlined in cement. It is hard to imagine that Texas was a busy community fifty or sixty years ago.

Above the Fertilizer Works, about opposite Granville Haines' farm on the north side of the creek at the "Forks," there formerly stood an old mill on a small tributary of the Rancocas. On the 1849 Map at the County Clerk's Office in Mount Holly it is charted as a "Steam Mill," while in Scott's Atlas, published in 1876, it is called "Old Mill." The writer cannot seem to learn when or by whom it was built.

The Venable family records show that a William Venable, who lived in Moorestown early in the 19th century, had a gristmill on the Rancocas. It is possible that this may have been his mill. The mill pond is still in existence and the dam is now the road that crosses the little stream that flows into the Rancocas.

A Shad Fishery was located on the south bank of the Rancocas not far from this mill. The following advertisement appeared in the "Saturday Evening Visitor and Burlington County Gazette" on January 29, 1825:¹⁰

"An excellent Shad Fishery and 15 acres of first rate Bank Meadow one mile from the farm, on Rancocas Creek adjoining lands of David Woolman."

David Woolman was the son of Abraham Woolman, who lived on the farm almost directly opposite the "Forks" of the Rancocas. Abraham Woolman, a younger brother of the famous John Woolman, built the old sandstone house that stood near the Rancocas until a few years ago. Shad were very plentiful in the Rancocas during the early days.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 10

¹ County Clerk's Office, Road Book C, 186. The record does not mention the villages of Rancocas or Centerton nor does the map accompanying the survey.

² According to Woodward and Hageman, page 58, a Post Office was established in January, 1836, under the name "Ancocas" and was discontinued in June of that year. The Rancocas Post Office was established on May 1, 1838.

³ County Clerk's Office, Road Book A, 47.

⁴ Ibid, Book Z-2, p. 521.

⁵ The sketches of the Friends School and Literary Societies are largely based on the "The History of Friends School at Ankokus," written by Charles Stokes in 1913 and also on Woodward and Hageman, page 522.

⁶ Woodward and Hageman, 522A.

⁷ Ibid, 372.

⁸ I have drawn freely on a sketch of the plants in Texas by William E. Gibbs, a grandson of George Rose, whose father Charles Gibbs, was employed at the Works.

⁹ Mrs. Frances Stokes Janney, of Rancocas, possesses a Leaflet of the Rancocas Fertilizer Works, which she kindly loaned the writer.

¹⁰ The Burlington County Historical Society has a copy of this issue. Howard R. Kemble, a member of the Society, called my attention to the Advertisement.



Joseph Buzby House, near Charleston, 1764. Photograph by N. R. Ewan



Thomas Buzby House on Rancocas Creek, 1783. Photograph by N. R. Ewan

Chapter 11

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

THE background histories of the Rancocas and Mount Holly neighborhoods are largely the same as that of the other communities in the county. Burlington County, which originally extended from above Trenton to the seashore, was settled by Quakers from the British Isles during the last quarter of the 17th century. As late as 1750, nearly seventy-five years after the founding of Burlington, the oldest town in the county, the Friends meeting houses were the only places of public worship in Burlington County with the exception of St. Mary's Church in Burlington, erected in 1703, and its mission on Iron Works Hill in Mount Holly.

Samuel Smith in his "History of New Jersey, 1765, states that there were:¹ "Of places for worship, the people called quakers have fifteen, episcopalians two, baptists one, presbyterians one." The Presbyterian Church referred to, doubtless was John Brainerd's log church at Indian Mills, and the Baptist Church was located at New Mills, now Pemberton. Brainerd's churches at Indian Mills and later at Vincentown and Mount Holly were disorganized after a few years of Christian service. Presbyterianism was not firmly established in the county until 1836 when a Church was organized in Burlington.

The congregations of these Churches were small in 1765 and the Society of Friends was the predominant religious organization in the county until after the Revolutionary War. The West Jersey Friends played an important part in planting the banner of religious and civil liberty on our shores and no matter what our Church affiliations may be we should be proud of our Quaker heritage.

Willam Penn's "Holy Experiment" in Pennsylvania has been wisely and justly praised but the earlier Quaker Experiment in government in West Jersey, generally speaking, has either been ignored by historians or its

historical significance has not been sufficiently emphasized. Yet the "Holy Experiment" in a large measure was the outgrowth of the West Jersey Experiment, of which William Penn was also the leader.

Quoting from the Preface of Judge Richard Field's "Provincial Courts of New Jersey":

"It may be safely affirmed, that William Penn himself had more to do in moulding the institutions of West Jersey, that his spirit was more deeply infused into them, and that they reflected more clearly the pure and benign features of his character than did those of the State which bore his name."

A brief review of the leading events that led up to the great exodus of Quakers from the British Isles to West Jersey and Pennsylvania during the last quarter of the seventeenth century may be of interest and helpful to the reader. On March 12, 1664, King Charles II ceded a large tract of land in America, including New England west of the Connecticut River, the greater part of New York and all of New Jersey to his brother James, Duke of York, with full powers of sovereignty.²

This territory was a Dutch possession at that time and known as New Netherland. The Dutch claim to the territory was based on the voyage of Henry Hudson, an English navigator in the employ of the Dutch East India Company. Hudson explored the Jersey coast in 1609 and sailed up the magnificent river that now bears his name, in search of the mythical passage to Cathay. The log of the "Half Moon" shows that Hudson first entered Delaware Bay but finding many shoals and the channel treacherous decided that it was not the coveted passage and proceeded up the coast and soon entered the "River of the Mountains," as Hudson called the river.

England, basing her claim on the voyages of John and Sebastian Cabot in 1497 and 1498, had never recognized the Dutch title. During the summer of 1664 King Charles dispatched a fleet of war vessels, under command of Col. Richard Nicolls, to support the claim of the Duke.³ Col. Nicolls demanded the surrender of Fort Amsterdam and the Dutch commander, Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of New Netherland, urged by his own people, finally

realized that resistance would be in vain and surrendered without firing a shot.⁴ The flag of the Netherlands was lowered forever on this continent save for a brief period in 1673 when the Dutch recaptured New York, which once again became known as New Amsterdam.

The Treaty of Westminster was signed by England and the Netherlands on February 19, 1674, under the terms of which New Netherland was restored to King Charles; the Crown lawyers having ruled that the Dutch occupation had abrogated the Duke's title. On June 24, 1664, the Duke had conveyed that part of his domain, now known as New Jersey, to Sir George Carteret and Lord Berkeley, members of His Majesty's Privy Council and valiant defenders of the Crown during the Cromwellian Wars.⁵ In this grant no mention was made of governmental powers.

In June, 1674, after the Treaty of Westminster was signed, the King made a new grant of New Netherland to the Duke, completely ignoring the rights of Berkeley and Carteret.⁶ Carteret vigorously protested and on July 29 the Duke conveyed the eastern part of the province to him without powers of sovereignty.⁷ Under this grant the dividing line between East and West Jersey ran from the mouth of Barnegat Creek "to a certain creek in Delaware river, next adjoining to and below a certain creek in Delaware river called Rankokus Kill." This doubtless refers to a stream now known as Swedes Run, which empties into the Delaware above Riverton.

This line was not acceptable to the West Jersey proprietors as it gave Carteret too large a portion of the province, in which Berkeley had an equal interest under the grant of June, 1664. The matter was not adjusted until 1676 when the proprietors of the two provinces drew up and signed an instrument known as the Quintipartite Deed,⁸ dividing East and West Jersey by a line running from Little Egg Harbor to the northernmost branch of the Delaware. The line was not fully satisfactory but has generally been regarded as the Province Line.

Lord Berkeley, tiring of his investment in New Jersey real estate, from which he had derived no profit, sold his

half interest, West Jersey, to two English Quakers, Edward Byllynge and John Fenwick, on March 18, 1674,⁹ for one thousand pounds or approximately one half cent per acre. Differences soon arose between Byllynge and Fenwick regarding their respective interests in the province and William Penn, then in his prime, was asked to act as arbitrator.¹⁰ Penn awarded Fenwick one tenth and a considerable sum of money and Byllynge nine tenths. Fenwick, who was a Major in Cromwell's Army before he joined the Religious Society of Friends, at first refused to accept the award but eventually yielded to the persuasive and diplomatic Penn.

Edward Byllynge was found to be heavily involved financially and William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas, the latter two being heavy creditors of Byllynge, were named as Trustees of Byllynge's holdings in West Jersey with power to sell his land for the benefit of the creditors.

John Fenwick with his family and servants and other colonists, most of whom were Quakers, embarked from London in the fall of 1675 in the ship **Griffin** and landed at the Swedish fort, Elfsborg, near the mouth of Salem Creek. Fenwick founded Salem, the oldest permanent English settlement in West Jersey, in 1675. When Governor Andros of New York, the Duke of York's representative in America, heard that Fenwick was establishing a Proprietary government in the Duke's territory he summoned him to report to him in New York. Fenwick ignored the summons whereupon the Governor had him arrested and brought to New York where he was confined in Fort James.

Two years elapsed before the next immigrant ship arrived in the Delaware. The **Kent**, bearing more than two hundred settlers bound for Burlington County, practically all of whom were Quakers from London and Yorkshire, cast anchor at the mouth of Raccoon Creek below Gloucester, in August, 1677. The commissioners and a few other passengers proceeded up the river to the site of Burlington City and founded Burlington, the oldest English settlement in the county. The great majority of the

passengers, however, remained at New Stockholm, the name of the Swedish village at the mouth of the Raccoon, until the spring of 1678.¹¹ It should not be forgotten that Burlington is an older city than Philadelphia.

The **Kent** was followed by a number of immigrant ships during the next few years, all of which carried colonists for Burlington County. Settlements were made on the Delaware as far north as Trenton and along the streams that flowed into the river. It must not be forgotten that carriages or wagons did not appear on the roads of Burlington County until the second quarter of the eighteenth century and consequently travel was altogether by boat or by horseback over the Indian trails or crude roads of the early days. So great was the value of navigable streams that the West Jersey Assembly passed a law in 1681 forbidding any person from taking up more than forty perches on a river or navigable creek for each one hundred acres and also from taking up land on opposite sides of the stream, "except the commissioners for the time being, shall see good cause for their so doing."

William Penn and his fellow trustees were very successful in selling proprietary rights in the new province, especially to the creditors of Edward Byllynge who gladly accepted land in West Jersey in satisfaction of their claims. The Quaker leaders turned their attention to drawing up a Charter or Frame of Government and on March 3, 1676, the "Concessions and Agreements of the proprietors, freeholders and inhabitants of West New Jersey in America"¹² were adopted and signed by William Penn and one hundred and forty-nine other proprietors of the province. This immortal document was brought over on the **Kent** by the Commissioners and is now in custody of the Council of Proprietors in Burlington. Benjamin A. Sleeper is now the Surveyor General of the West Jersey Proprietors and has charge of the document.

Amelia Mott Gummere, the Quaker historian, said of the Concessions and Agreements:¹³

"There breathes in the Charter of New Jersey, whose anonymous author is beyond doubt William Penn, a spirit of religious and political freedom that is even more marked than when, seven

years later he came to draw the famous Frame of Government for his own Pennsylvania."

Quoting again from Judge Field:¹⁴

"A more beautiful fabric of free government has never been reared. It should be forever embalmed in the memory of all Jerseymen . . . never was there a more comprehensive act of religious toleration and never was it violated in its letter or spirit . . . That could be said of the Quakers of New Jersey, which could not be said of the Puritans of New England, that they had suffered persecution and had learned mercy."

Chapter XVI of the Concessions reads in part:¹⁵

"That no man or number of men upon earth, hath power or authority to rule over men's consciences in religious matters; therefore it is consented, agreed and ordained, that no person or persons whatsoever, within the said province, at any time or times hereafter shall be any ways, upon any pretence whatever, called in question, or in the least punished or hurt, either in person, estate or privilege, for the sake of his opinion, judgment, faith or worship towards God, in matters of religion."

The commissioners appointed by the Proprietors to purchase land from the Indians and set up a government under the Concessions and Agreements were: Thomas Olive, Daniel Wills, John Kinsey, John Penford, Joseph Helmsley, Robert Stacy, Benjamin Scott, Richard Guy and Thomas Foulke.¹⁶ John Kinsey died at Shackamax-on shortly after the arrival of the **Kent**. Profiting by Fenwick's experience, the commissioners, most of whom were on the **Kent**, wisely decided to stop at New York and discuss their governmental rights with Governor Andros and the Council.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 11

¹ Smith, 496.

² N. J. A. Vol. 1, pp. 3-8.

³ Fiske, *The Dutch and Quaker Colonies*, Vol. 1, p. 330.

⁴ *Ibid*, 337-338.

⁵ N. J. A. Vol. 1, pp. 8-14.

⁶ *Grants and Concessions*, 41-45.

⁷ *Ibid*, 46-48.

⁸ *Ibid*, 61-72. N. J. A. Vol. 1, 205-219.

⁹ Tanner, 5-6.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, 9.

- 11 Richards, 6.
- 12 Smith, 521-539. N. J. A. Vol. 1, pp. 241-270.
- 13 Jones, 365.
- 14 Field, 27-28.
- 15 Smith, 529.
- 16 Ibid, 92-93.

Chapter 12

THE SETTLEMENT OF MOUNT HOLLY And NEARBY TOWNS

THE neighborhood of Mount Holly, formerly called Bridgetown, was settled by English Friends during the last two decades of the seventeenth century. The name Bridgetown doubtless was given to the settlement on account of the several bridges necessitated by the windings of Rancocas Creek. The village, however, was first called Mount Holly, the attractive name given to the mount by John Cripps, the first to take up land where the town now stands. The following records clearly show that the settlement was first called Mount Holly.

A memorandum of survey for Walter Humphries in 1694 reads in part, "For Walter Humphries, of 70 acres on the Northbranch of Rancokus Creek **near Mount Holly.**"¹ This farm was located on the creek about three miles below the town. The early Friends Meeting and the Township records frequently refer to Mount Holly. A minute of Burlington Monthly Meeting, dated "First month fifth, 1716," states that the meeting house "att Mount Holly" had been completed. The following quotation from Thomas Chalkley's Journal for the year 1737 shows that the village then was known as Mount Holly:²

"From Burlington I went to Mount-Holly, had a large meeting at the Meeting House and another in the evening at Mount-Holly town at the house of Thomas Shinn."

The following excerpt from the Northampton Township records, discovered a few years ago by the late William A. Slaughter, also seem to be conclusive:

"At a Town meeting held ye 8th day of March 1725/6 at ye Saw Mill & Grist Mill near Mount holley."

A minute of Burlington Monthly Meeting, recorded on "Third month third, 1742," reads: "Sundry Friends living at or near Mount Holly request liberty of this meeting to hold a meeting for worship in that town." A later minute of the same year refers to the Friends of "Mount Holly alias Bridgetown," indicating that the town was

beginning to be known as Bridgetown. The township records from 1740 to 1768 show that the Township meetings generally were held in Bridgetown.

The first recorded meeting held in the Town Hall was in 1747, John Ewan being the clerk. All of the township meetings prior to that year were held in the Friends meeting house on Wood Lane, the sawmill, gristmill or in private houses. The Mount Holly Post Office was established on January 1, 1801, Stephen C. Ustick being the first Post Master.³

John Cripps, the pioneer settler at Mount Holly, arrived from England on the **Kent** in 1677, and settled in Burlington. There is an interesting tradition that when looking for a location for his country home he ascended the mount north of Mount Holly and was so pleased with the view of the surrounding country that he immediately decided to purchase a tract of land in that neighborhood. The view of the magnificent forests, through which the Rancocas followed its serpentine path, must indeed have been very attractive as there was no more beautiful spot on the picturesque stream before the hand of man marred its beauty.

Before leaving England John Cripps had purchased 1/8 of a share of land in West Jersey and under this proprietary right he located 300 acres at Mount Holly. The survey, recorded on April 18, 1681, reads:⁴

"For John Cripps one parcell of land abutting on Rancokus Creek southwards and from a certain white oak there marked with J. C. it stretches itself northeast and by east two hundred eighty-four rodts to a black oak marked J. C., thence northwest two hundred seventy rodts to another black oak marked aforesaid, from which by a south, southwest course, it reaches the said creek againe, through which a swamp where grows a store of holley to a white oak by the creek marked as before, within which tract of land is a mountaine to which the province, east, south and west and north sends a beautiful aspect named by the owner thereof Mount Holly."

Surveyed for 300 acres

In my "Sketches of Mount Holly and Vicinity" which

appeared in the Mount Holly Herald in 1936, I accepted the tradition that the "Cripps Oak," the stump of which is still standing at the corner of Branch and Garden streets, marked the northeast corner of the Cripps survey but Benjamin A. Sleeper, of Burlington, an experienced engineer and surveyor, informed me that the southern boundary was about where Union Street is now located. The fact that the survey states that the northeast corner was marked by a black oak, whereas the so-called "Cripps Oak" is a white oak corroborates Mr. Sleeper.

The exact location of John Cripps' house is unknown to the writer. It was the first house built in Mount Holly. The will of Nathaniel Cripps, his only son, dated "10th month 9th, 1746,"⁵ mentions a "brick house near Bridgetown," which in all probability refers to his father's residence, as he inherited the plantation at the time of his father's death in 1687. The Cripps' residence probably was on the southwestern slope of the Mount and fairly near the Rancocas. In the early days the homes of the pioneers, generally speaking, were located on the bank of a navigable stream. The pioneers usually had landings on the Rancocas from which they sent their farm produce to the market by boat.

On April 3, 1683, Henry Stacy located 500 acres northeast of the John Woolman Memorial on Branch Street but apparently never lived on the plantation as he died in England during the following year. The record of survey reads:⁶

"Memorandum of survey for Henry Stacy of 500 acres on Rancokus River at the Indian town of Alumhatta, adjoining John Woolston and Thomas Ollive."

It would be interesting to know just where the Indian village was located. In 1686 Mary, widow of Henry Stacy, sold the above tract to "Widow Sarah Parker."

The Bryant, Budd, Burr, Gaskill and Woolston⁷ families were the most influential of the pioneers who settled in the vicinity of Mount Holly in the seventeenth century. The Bryants and Gaskills figured largely in establishing Mount Holly as an industrial center. Thomas Bryant,

whose name frequently was spelled Bryan or Brian in the early records, was the progenitor of the family in Burlington County. In 1689 a tract of 300 acres was surveyed for him on the south side of Rancocas Creek "adjoining Robert Dimsdale."⁸ In 1684 Robert Dimsdale had located a tract of more than 1700 acres which extended from the Rancocas at Mount Holly to the South Branch at Lumberton.⁹

William Budd, from whom most of the Burlington County Budds are descended, located 500 acres extending from the Rancocas, near Pemberton, northward to Arney's Mount. The survey, recorded in July, 1685, reads:¹⁰

"Return of survey for William Budd, of 500 acres on Northampton River, West John Woolston, Jr., along the partition line between the First and Second Tenths and the line of the Indian purchase, including 25 acres of meadow next to Thomas Ollive."

Henry Burr, the pioneer, first settled on a farm near Vincentown in 1690.¹¹ In 1695 he purchased a plantation, still known as "Peachfield," on Burr's Road, about two and a half miles north of Mount Holly.¹² The plantation contained 300 acres to which he added 200 acres in 1716, purchased from his neighbor to the north, William Stevenson.

It is not definitely known when Edward Gaskill, founder of the family in West Jersey, first located near Mount Holly. It was prior to 1688. The first mention that I find of the name in the New Jersey Archives is in a deed, dated November 10, 1688, from Sarah Parker to George Parker, in which the name is spelled "Gascoyne."¹³ The land conveyed was part of the Henry Stacy tract of 500 acres east of Mount Holly.

In 1701 John Ridges, of England, through his attorney Samuel Jenings, of Burlington, sold 871 acres of his holdings in West Jersey to Josiah Southwick and Edward Gaskill, as shown by the following deed:¹⁴

"John Ridges of London, citizen and skinner, by his attorney Samuel Jenings of Burlington, merchant, to Josiah Southwick and Edward Gaskitt, both of Burlington Co., yeomen, for 871

acres in Burlington Co., on Northbranch of Northampton R., between John Crosby, Thomas Ollive, Wm. Budd, the Widow Parker, a branch of Birch Creek, Thomas Curtis, Peter Harvy, Isaac Horner, Jonathan ffox and Nathaniel Cripps."

The tract was divided by mutual agreement between Southwick and Gaskill in 1720. Southwick retained the northern half and Gaskill the southern, on which the greater part of Mount Holly now stands.

John Woolston, Jr., a nephew of the pioneer of the same name, who settled in Mansfield Township, located 300 acres on Rancocas Creek near Ewanville, in 1682. The record of survey, dated November 30, 1682, reads:¹⁵

"Memorandum of survey for John Woolston junior, of 300 acres, beginning at an Indian town on Rancokus River at the mouth of a brook, including 8 acres of meadow on the line between the First and Second Tenths."

This plantation, located on Route 39 north of Ewanville, remained in the Woolston family until 1932 when the greater part of it was sold by Walter E. Woolston, a lineal descendant of the original owner. About thirty acres of the farm, with a frontage on the Rancocas, are still owned by Mr. Woolston.

The first to locate land on the Rancocas below Mount Holly were: Lawrence Morris, Richard Fenimore, Mary Perkins, Anthony Elton, Walter Clark and Arthur Cook. Richard Fenimore,¹⁶ founder of the family in Burlington County, located 95 acres near Mount Holly in 1681 but apparently did not settle on same, as two years later he purchased 200 acres on Delaware River where the town of Delanco now stands. The Fenimores are closely identified with the settlement of Willingboro Township. Mary Perkins was the widow of William Perkins, who died on the ship **Kent** during the passage to America in 1677.

SMITHVILLE.¹⁷ The village of Smithville, formerly Shreveville, was at one time a thriving and active manufacturing center. The settlement was founded in about 1780 when Jacob Parker built a dam across the Rancocas at this point and shortly afterwards established a saw-mill or gristmill. In all probabiltly a few houses were

built near the mill and the settlement may have been given a name, which however is not known today.

Jonathan L., and Samuel Shreve, who formerly kept a store in Columbus, moved to the new location in about 1828 and took over the water power rights of Jacob Parker and established a factory for the weaving of calico. The village then became known as Shreveville. The brothers spent upwards of \$200,000 in building additional factories and homes for the workmen.

In 1846 Samuel Semple, grandfather of Edwin Semple, of Mount Holly, was brought over from Scotland and placed in charge of the Calico Factory. Mr. Semple was a weaver and understood the making of cotton thread and shortly afterwards the Shreve Brothers built a separate plant for the making of spool cotton. It is said that the first spool cotton in the United States was made in Shreveville. However, there is some doubt as to the correctness of this tradition. The mansion house, which is still standing, was erected in 1842 by the Shreve Brothers, who occupied it as a residence. The outbuildings, stone wall and gate were built by Hezekiah B. Smith at a later date.

The Shreve Brothers finally became bankrupt and H. B. Smith, for whom the town received its present name, bought the mansion house and plant in about 1865 for \$23,000. Mr. Smith, who arrived at Shreveville in 1865, was a remarkable genius, an able business man and an outstanding inventor. It is said that forty patents are registered in his name at Washington. He represented his adopted State in Congress from 1879 to 1881. Much of the romance and glamor of Smithville, the deserted village, was derived from H. B. Smith. He was rather spectacular in his habits and drove a moose geared to a wagon around Smithville. The moose scared the farmers' horses and there was much opposition to the strange outfit.

Smithville is the only village in New Jersey that can boast of having had a moose-drawn vehicle and a bicycle railroad. The railroad was the invention of William H. Hotchkiss, a Yankee from Connecticut, and was intended

to provide the Smithville workmen, who lived in Mount Holly with cheap transportation. It did not prove a financial success and only lasted two or three years. The older residents of the community will remember the bicycle railroad and some now living may have ridden on it. Smithville was also the home of the Star Bicycle, the invention of George W. Pressey, which was manufactured exclusively by H. B. Smith. You may recall that the distinguishing feature of the Star was that the small wheel was in front and that it was propelled by a ratchet. It is now a museum piece.

PEMBERTON. The Borough of Pemberton was incorporated on December 15, 1826.¹⁸ It was named for James Pemberton, a prominent shipping merchant of Philadelphia and a well-known Quaker minister. As far as it is known James Pemberton never lived in the town that bears his name. He married Sarah, daughter of Daniel Smith, of Burlington, who inherited from her father a little more than ten acres in Pemberton. The first name of the settlement was "Hampton Hanover," so named because Rancocas Creek divided Northampton and New Hanover Townships. When the mills were established on the Rancocas in 1752 the village became known as "New Mills."

Pemberton celebrated its 200th Anniversary in 1891 but the writer is of the opinion that the settlement was not founded in 1691. The original owners of the land on which Pemberton stands were Thomas and William Budd, sons of Thomas Budd, rector of Martook Parish, England, who gave up his living and joined the Religious Society of Friends early in the 1650's. William Budd located 500 acres west of Pemberton in 1685 and his brother Thomas 2000 acres east of the town in 1694. The present road to Juliustown was the approximate dividing line between the two tracts. The return of survey for William Budd, dated July 5, 1685, reads:¹⁹

"For William Budd, of 500 acres on Northampton River, W. John Woolston junior, along the partition line between the First and Second Tenths and the line of the Indian purchase, including 25 acres of meadow next to Thomas Ollive."



The second Baptist Church in Pemberton, 1821. Photograph by Mrs. Agnes deCou Budd.



John Woolston House, near Ewanville. Circa 1711. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

This plantation extended from the north branch of Northampton River, now Rancocas Creek, to Arney's Mount, formerly Shreve's Mount. William Budd married Ann Claypoole in 1685 and settled on this plantation near the mount. Thomas Budd's survey, dated April 2, 1694, reads:²⁰

"Return of Survey for Thomas Budd, of 2,000 acres at Mount Pisgah along the North branch of Rancokus River and the line of the old Indian purchase, adjoining William Budd."

Mount Pisgah is the name of the mount at Juliustown. His brother William also located 500 acres east of the Thomas Budd tract in 1693.²¹ William bequeathed this plantation to his daughter Ann, who married James Bingham. Thomas Budd moved to Philadelphia before 1690 and died in that city in 1698. His widow, Susannah Budd, sold the tract at Pemberton to Restore Lippincott and John Garwood on July 11, 1701. The deed reads in part:²²

"Susannah, widow and executrix of Thomas Budd of Philadelphia, to Restore Lippincott and John Garwood, both of Burlington County, yeomen, for 2,000 acres in said county, on the North branch of Northampton River, near Mount Pisgah, adjoining William Budd."

A little later the tract was divided between the grantees: Garwood taking the northern half and Lippincott the southern. Restore Lippincott was the son of Richard and Abigail, who settled near Shrewsbury, Monmouth County in about 1668. Restore Lippincott did not live on his 1000 acres at Pemberton; his home being on a farm between that town and Mount Holly. The first Friends Meetings in the neighborhood of Mount Holly were held in his house.

Thomas Budd owned a share of land in West Jersey and sold $\frac{1}{8}$ of a share to his brother William on February 12, 1684.²³ A share or fraction of a share meant that the owner had the right to locate that amount of land under their proprietary right from any unappropriated land in West Jersey with the approval of the Surveyor General. A share contained approximately 30,000 acres. There can be no doubt that Thomas and William Budd's

holdings near Pemberton were based on their proprietary rights and were not purchased from previous owners. Thomas Budd never lived on this plantation as he was living in Philadelphia at the time the purchase was made. William Budd's residence was near Arney's Mount.

The original townships, established in 1688, were Nottingham, (now in Mercer County) Chesterfield, Mansfield, Springfield, Willingboro, Northampton, Chester and Evesham. New Hanover Township was set apart from Chesterfield and Springfield in 1723.²⁴ All writers seem to agree that Hampton Hanover was so named because the Rancocas was the dividing line between the two townships. How then could Hampton Hanover have been established in 1691 if New Hanover Township was not established until 1723? In the writer's opinion the site of Pemberton was undeveloped in 1691.

Prior to 1752 a gristmill was established on Budd's Run north of Pemberton, about a quarter mile east of Hanover Street, formerly called Main Street. It was probably established by a man named Budd, for whom the stream was named. In 1752²⁵ David Budd, a grandson of the pioneer William Budd, Robert Smith, Daniel Smith and Patrick Reynolds formed a partnership and built a dam across the Rancocas and also a gristmill and a sawmill on the north bank of the creek near the present bridge on Hanover Street. The second gristmill, standing on the same site, was sold to the Burlington County Farmers Cooperative Association in about 1942 and has since been remodelled. The foundation walls are believed to be the original walls of the first mill.

David Budd, son of William Budd, Jr. and Elizabeth Stockton, inherited the land west of Hanover Street, where the mills were established. The Smith brothers, of Burlington, furnished the capital and Patrick Reynolds, being a millwright, erected the mills. The settlement then became known as "New Mills." The establishment of the mills marked the beginning of the development of Pemberton as an industrial center. The New Mills Post Office was established on January 1, 1801: William Kempton being the first Postmaster.

Gordon's Gazetteer, 1834, states that Pemberton then contained 1 sawmill, 1 gristmill, 1 fulling mill, 1 cotton factory, 1 cupola furnace, 1 Methodist and 1 Baptist Church, 2 taverns, 5 stores and about 100 dwelling houses and adds—"This is a thriving town, growing rapidly by reason of its manufactures." Barber and Howe's Historical Collections, 1844, also lists a pump factory, a turning mill, 2 Methodist Churches, 2 carriage makers but only lists 3 stores. New Mills had at least one clockmaker as the writer has seen two grandfather clocks marked on the dial "Jos Budd, New Mills." They were made in about 1800.

The fulling mill, cotton factory and cupola furnace, originally called a Forge, were on the south side of the Rancocas, west of Hanover Street. The lower tavern was located at the corner of Hanover and Elizabeth Streets where the Pemberton Inn now stands. The original tavern at this corner was a frame building with a long porch on the Hanover Street side. The frame tavern was purchased by Joseph J. Reeve in 1835. Mr. Reeve removed the old building and erected the brick hotel, now standing, in 1839. It was owned in the 1880's by Aaron Early who opened a store with his son, known as "A. Early & Son."²⁶

The upper tavern was located on the eastern side of Hanover Street, north of Elizabeth. It is now "Grobler's Funeral Home" which is owned by Anthony A. Collins. Joseph J. Reeve conducted the upper tavern before he purchased the one then standing at the corner of Elizabeth Street.

Perhaps the oldest house in Pemberton is the "Morris Mansion" on Hanover Street, near the bridge across the Rancocas. The oldest part of the house is said to have been built by David Budd when he and his partners erected the mills in 1752. The mill property was afterwards owned by General John Lacey, who married Antis (Anastasia) Reynolds, daughter of Thomas Reynolds, in 1781. General Lacey enlarged and greatly improved the mansion.

Anthony S. Morris purchased the mill property and 39

acres in Pemberton Township from Susanna S. Norcross on October 1, 1864, paying \$30,000 for both properties.²⁷ Lot No. 2 began on the west side of Hough Street "Together with all and singular the mills, houses, outhouses, Buildings, waters, water courses etc, be the contents what they may." His son Anthony J. Morris inherited the mill property and it is now owned by his daughter Mrs. Helen Morris McMillan. The house is beautifully located on the ridge overlooking the Rancocas. The dam gave way in 1945 but was rebuilt in 1948. The view from the front porch is very attractive.

Until recently there was a log cabin on the Theodore Budd property, near the Morris Mansion, that was standing at the time of the Revolutionary War. There is an interesting tradition that Col. Thomas Reynolds, son of Patrick Reynolds who built the mills, was concealed in this cabin when the British Army under Gen. Clinton occupied Mount Holly over the weekend in June, 1778. Col. Reynolds was a member of the Committee of Correspondence and the British Officers sent a patrol to Pemberton to capture him but the bird had flown. He was afterwards taken and confined in a prison ship in New York Harbor.

The old house at 50 Hanover Street, now the property of Mrs. John C. Hamilton, **nee** Beatrice Hankins, is quaint and historically interesting. Mr. Hamilton is now Mayor of Pemberton. Mrs. Hamilton has a deed, dated 1780, by which Samuel Budd conveyed the property to George Briggs for one hundred pounds, showing that a house stood on the lot at that time. It is clearly evident that a lot containing a little more than a quarter of an acre would not have brought that price in 1780. The southern end is undoubtedly the oldest. The northern end of the old house has two bulk windows on the ground floor which give it a very unique appearance.

There never was a Quaker meeting house in Pemberton, as the Baptists and Methodists seem to have predominated. Thomas and William Budd were Friends until early in the 1690's when they became followers of George Keith and afterwards joined the Church of Eng-

land. Restore Lippincott, who owned the southern half of the Thomas Budd tract, was a Friend and the town was named "Pemberton" for a prominent Philadelphia Friend, James Pemberton. A Friends' Meeting was established in 1743 at Arney's Mount, two and a half miles northwest of Pemberton; the meetings being held in the schoolhouse until the present picturesque stone meeting house was erected in 1775.

BAPTIST CHURCH.²⁸ Francis Briggs, who moved to Pemberton in 1750 from Salem County, should be remembered as the founder of the First Baptist Church and the first Baptist to settle in the neighborhood. He invited Ministers to his home and held frequent services to which the neighbors were invited. Three persons were converted and baptized. In 1752 the little band of faithful Christians erected a small church, 30 feet square, that stood in the southwest corner of the Baptist Graveyard on South Pemberton Road. Michael Woolston, son of John and Lettice Woolston, of Ewanville, conveyed the lot on which it stood to Francis Briggs on April 6, 1752, "for divers good Causes and valuable Considerations." The lot contained "One Acre and a half and ten perches of Land."

The deed stipulated that the lot was to be "for ever employed for a Meeting House and Burial place. One perch on the East the whole length of said Land to Bury Strangers, the rest for the Sole use of a Congregation of People called Ana-baptists."²⁹ Francis Briggs, an earnest Christian, died in 1763, the year before the Church was organized. The Rev. Peter P. Van Horn was the first pastor. Francis Briggs' will, dated June 26, 1762, mentioned four sons, David, John, William and Job but the name Briggs apparently has disappeared from the neighborhood. He bequeathed to his son Job, "my plantation where I dwell."

In 1821 John Irick and Joseph Deacon conveyed to the Church a lot east of the Baptist Cemetery "for the good will and affection that they had for the church" and for the consideration of one dollar. This lot, on which the brick building on the South Pemberton Road,

near Hanover Street, stands—the second Baptist Church in Pemberton—contained one acre. The building measures 38 by 44 feet and was used as a church until 1862 when it was sold to Job H. Gaskill. It was used for school purposes for about ten years and afterwards came into the possession of Aaron Early, who was interested in a cranberry bog and used it for storing cranberries for many years. It is now owned by Mrs. Melissa Early, widow of Aaron Early's son Thomas.

In 1843 a small chapel was erected in the town, as many of the congregation felt that the brick church on South Pemberton Road was too far out of town. The chapel was used by the Sunday School and for the Evening Service until 1861 when it was sold to the Grace Episcopal Church and used by the Episcopalians as their first house of worship. The chapel is standing on the east side of Hanover Street not far from the creek. It is now occupied by the Cranberry Growers Association. The present large brick Baptist Church on the western side of Hanover Street was erected in 1861. Rev. E. B. Danner is now the pastor and the Church has a membership of fully two hundred.

METHODIST CHURCH. The New Mills Methodist Society or Class, the third in New Jersey, was formed in 1774 and the first church erected in the following year. A class was organized in Burlington in 1770 and at Trenton in 1771,³⁰ so it would appear that Burlington can claim the honor of being the cradle of Methodism in New Jersey. However, Pemberton claims the distinction of having built the first Methodist Church in the county. On December 31, 1774, William Budd, Jr., conveyed, in trust, to: Samuel, Eli, and Jonathan Budd, Andrew Heisler, Peter Shiras and Joseph Toy, trustees of the Methodist Church at New Mills, one quarter acre of land.

The frame house of worship, erected in 1775, stood back of the Veterans' Honor Roll, south of the present Methodist Church. It was 36 by 28 feet in size and served the congregation until 1833 when it was sold to Solomon Middleton, who moved it to a lot on north Hanover Street. It is now a dwelling house but has been so altered

that it is not recognizable as a house of worship. The trustees of the first Church were: John Budd, Eli Budd, Andrew Heisler, Joseph Toy and Lambert Wilmore.

Captain Thomas Webb, a retired British Officer, who scaled the Heights of Abraham in Quebec with General Wolfe in 1759, is generally recognized as the founder of the Methodist Faith in New Jersey. He preached in New Mills in 1770 and frequently afterwards. Naturally he was a Tory and during the Revolution he was hidden in the house of a brother Tory near New Mills before he escaped to England.³¹

Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, arrived at Philadelphia on October 27, 1771, and a few days later preached in the old Court House in Burlington. He preached a powerful sermon at New Mills in the "Baptist meeting house on March 2, 1772, and was kindly received."³² He frequently preached in New Mills and doubtless in the first Methodist Church on north Hanover Street. He was an eloquent preacher and labored to build up the Church in Burlington County.

The second Methodist Church stood on the site of the first, which, as stated above was sold and moved off of the lot. This church was erected in 1833 as shown by the Church records. It was enlarged and greatly improved in 1867 by adding a new front with vestibule and the addition of a steeple. It was built of brick and contained a gallery. In 1867 six thousand eight hundred and nine dollars were raised to cover the cost of the improvements. The trustees, at the time of the improvements, were: Benjamin Antrim, Charles Bodine, William Malsbury, Andrew H. Fort, William King, Joseph L. Morton and Stacy Budd.

Most unfortunately the church was destroyed by fire in 1894 and the present brick church edifice erected. Had the wind been blowing from the north much greater damage would have been done, as the town lay to the south of the burning church. The local fire department with its antiquated apparatus could not cope with the fire and a call for help was telegraphed to Mount Holly, which

town responded with alacrity. One or two steam fire engines were sent to Pemberton and the fire was quickly subdued.

There was no water system in Pemberton at the time of the fire and the only sources of water were the Rancocas Creek and Budd's Run just north of the town. The old hand-powered fire engine, of course, had to be filled from wells with buckets. The fire, in a sense, was a blessing to the town as a Water Company was quickly organized, the town piped and a standpipe erected. A sewer system quickly followed and I am told that the water company proved so profitable that there was no charge for the sewer until the town took over the plant.

The Rev. Paul Corson is the present minister of the Church which has a membership of two hundred and seventy-five.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.³³ The Episcopalians have held services in Pemberton for a little more than a century. In about 1840 the Rev. Thomas Tanser, an Episcopal missionary, preached in Pemberton. Other missionaries followed. The early services were held in the "Free Methodist Church."³⁴ In 1847 the first floor of the Odd Fellows Hall was rented and fitted up as a chapel. The Rev. Samuel W. Hallowell was given charge of the mission in 1852 and during his rectorship Grace Church was incorporated. John Saltar and James A. Fenwick were the first wardens and John Saltar, James Fenwick, Aaron S. White, William Ried and Dr. J. F. Coleman were appointed vestrymen.

Services were held in the Odd Fellows Hall until 1861 when the Baptist Chapel on the eastern side of Hanover Street, now standing near the bridge over the Rancocas, was purchased. On April 5, 1868, when entirely cleared of debt, it was consecrated by Bishop William H. Odenheimer. From 1866 to 1871 there was no settled rector of Grace Church and the services were conducted by missionaries from other places and at times by Senior Warden, James A. Fenwick. Rev. L. H. Lighthipe assumed charge of the parish in 1872 and remained for several years as rector.

The attractive Church on Elizabeth Street was erected in 1938. The present rector is the Rev. Charles Edwin Purdy and the Church now has a membership of one hundred and sixty.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 12

- ¹ N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 374.
- ² Thomas Chalkley's Journal, 269.
- ³ Woodward and Hageman, 58.
- ⁴ N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 349. Revel, 16.
- ⁵ Ibid. Vol. XXX, 125.
- ⁶ Ibid. Vol. XXI, 354. Revel, 38.
- ⁷ For further information regarding these families refer Chapter 25.
- ⁸ N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 366. Revel, 50.
- ⁹ Ibid, 372. Revel, 111.
- ¹⁰ Ibid, 362. Revel, 73.
- ¹¹ Ibid, 366. Revel, 90.
- ¹² N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 473. Secretary of State, Liber B-Part 2, p. 508.
- ¹³ Ibid, 516. Secretary of State, Liber B-Part 2, p. 651.
- ¹⁴ Ibid, 534. Ibid, 708.
- ¹⁵ Ibid, 355. Revel, 43.
- ¹⁶ Ibid, 349. Revel, 15.
- ¹⁷ This sketch is based largely on an article by N. R. Ewan and published in the Mount Holly Herald, September 22, 1929.
- ¹⁸ Woodward and Hageman, 397.
- ¹⁹ N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 362. Revel, 73.
- ²⁰ Ibid, 380. Revel, 131.
- ²¹ Ibid, 379. Revel, 129.
- ²² Ibid, 529. Secretary of State, Liber B-Part 2, p. 694.
- ²³ Ibid, 402. Ibid, Liber B-Part 1, p. 37.
- ²⁴ Woodward and Hageman, 381.
- ²⁵ Ibid, 394.
- ²⁶ Ibid, 395.
- ²⁷ County Clerk. Book C-7, p. 185.
- ²⁸ Woodward and Hageman, 402.
- ²⁹ The writer has a photostatic copy of the deed.
- ³⁰ Atkinson, 142.
- ³¹ Ibid, 146.
- ³² Woodward and Hageman, 407.
- ³³ Ibid, 406. Article by Rev. L. H. Lighthipe, rector of Grace Church in the early 1880's.
- ³⁴ As far as the writer can learn there never was a "Free Methodist Church" in Pemberton. However, Barber and Howe, 1844, lists two Methodist Churches.

Chapter 13

EARLY INDUSTRIES OF MOUNT HOLLY

SHORTLY after the division of the 871 acre tract in 1720, as told in the preceding chapter, Edward Gaskill built a dam across the Rancocas, at or near the location of the present dam, and dug the millrace that passes through the town south of Mill Street. On this raceway, east of the office of the Mount Holly Water Works, 84 Mill Street, he erected a sawmill which apparently was the first industry established in the village. On June 7, 1723,¹ Edward Gaskill sold the "sawmill, millhouse, dwelling house and millrace and three acres of land" to Thomas Bryant for "four hundred pounds."

On June 22, 1723,² Bryant conveyed a one-quarter interest to Edward Gaskill, James Lippincott, Abraham Bickley and to his son, Samuel Bryant. As the above deed did not mention a gristmill it is possible that it may have been erected by the joint owners in or shortly after 1723. However, it is generally supposed that the word "millhouse" referred to a gristmill. It could hardly have meant a dwelling as a "dwelling house" was specifically mentioned in the deed.

Abraham Bickley sold his one-quarter interest to Jonathan Sleeper and James Lippincott in 1725 and in 1730 the latter sold his one-eighth interest, purchased from Bickley, to William Murrell.³ The ownership of the mills in 1730 was vested as follows: Edward Gaskill 2/8th, Samuel Bryant 2/8th, James Lippincott 2/8th, Jonathan Sleeper 1/8th and William Murrell 1/8th.

The next enterprise seems to have been the establishment of a fulling mill by Samuel Gaskill, son of Edward Gaskill. I cannot say in what year the fulling mill was established except that it was prior to 1730, as will be shown later in this sketch. The Iron Works or Foundry, located on the south side of the Rancocas just above the bridge on Pine Street, was established in 1730. On June 29, 1704,⁴ Francis Collins conveyed to his son-in-law,

Thomas Bryant and his wife Rebecca Collins Bryant, 300 acres lying south of the creek "for and in consideration of the fatherly and natural love which I have and do bear unto my daughter Rebecca, wife of Thomas Brian."

On May 18, 1730, Thomas Bryant conveyed part of this tract to Mahlon Stacy, Isaac Pearson and John Burr, "not jointly but severally, each paying 75 pounds." The above deed traces the title back to the conveyance of Francis Collins to Thomas Bryant in 1704. Stacy, Pearson and Burr apparently erected the Iron Works. Iron kettles, cannon balls and other munitions of war were manufactured in the Foundry for the Patriot Army during the early years of the Revolutionary War. When the British Army under command of General Clinton entered Mount Holly from Eayrestown in June, 1778, one of its first acts was to destroy the Iron Works, which was then owned by Thomas Mayberry.

In 1729 Josiah White,⁵ a young man of ability and force of character, who was destined to figure largely in the development of the community, moved to Mount Holly from the neighborhood of Salem, New Jersey. He was the grandson of Christopher White who settled at Salem in 1677 and was the ancestor of Miss Elizabeth White, of Whitesbog. About a year before leaving Salem Josiah White contracted to build a dam across Alloways Creek, the contract stipulating that he would guarantee it for one year. There was some opposition to the project and on the night before the contract expired it was cut and, according to tradition, maliciously cut. Josiah White was not paid for his work on the dam as vandalism could not be proven. He was so exasperated by this unjust treatment that he sold his interests in that locality and moved to Mount Holly.

Josiah White was a weaver and doubtless the desirability of the Rancocas as a source of power influenced him in selecting Mount Holly as his future home and business activities. On May 29, 1730, Samuel Gaskill sold to Josiah White, "late of Alloways Creek in the County of Salem but now of the Town, County and Province aforesaid Weaver," as recorded in the Secretary of

State's Office, Trenton:⁶

"One certain fulling Mill Dying House and Dwelling House piece parcel Tract or Neck of Land above mentioned commonly called and known by the name of Gaskills Neck Situate lying and being in Bridgetown . . . containing by Estimation about sixty acres of Land."

The price paid was one hundred pounds. In my "Sketches of Mount Holly and Vicinity" which appeared in the Mount Holly Herald in 1936 and afterwards were published in two pamphlets, I stated that the fulling mill was established by Josiah White but the above deed clearly shows that it was founded by Samuel Gaskill or possibly by his father, Edward Gaskill, from whom he bought the property in 1727.⁷ Doubtless the plant was enlarged and the business developed by White. The fulling mill was located back of the Relief Fire House on Pine Street opposite Church Street. Josiah White's residence, a substantial brick or stone building, stood at the northwest corner of Pine and Church Streets. It was taken down or destroyed by fire in the 1880's and the present house erected. The water power operating the fulling mill was supplied by a raceway which joined Gaskill's millrace.

The fulling mill was in active operation for nearly one hundred years, when it was converted into a carding and spinning factory, to which the farmers brought their wool to be converted into cloth. The old mill was destroyed by fire in about 1881.

The gristmill that stood on the millrace near the office of the Mount Holly Water Company on Mill Street until it was burned in 1910, was erected by Richard Cox and Robert Davidson in 1796. It stood on or near the site of the first gristmill established by Edward Gaskill and associates in 1723 or shortly afterwards. Robert Davidson sold his interest to Charles Shreve in 1804 and in 1811 the Company, then known as Cox and Shreve, moved the sawmill standing near the gristmill, to Pine Street on the site of the Iron Foundry which was destroyed by the British soldiers in 1778.

In 1869 R. C. & A. R. Shreve, who then owned the property, erected a sash and blind factory which did an active business until 1900 when the buildings were demolished. A paper mill was established in about 1807 at the eastern end of Wall Street, formerly known as Paper Mill Street, a short street that runs east from Pine. It was run by water power supplied by a small millrace that drew water from Josiah White's raceway. The property was purchased by Bennett & Walton, of Philadelphia, in 1836 and modern machinery was installed. The business was conducted by Samuel T. Levis until 1840 when the plant was destroyed by fire. At one time the firm employed forty or fifty hands.

Shortly after the fire Mr. Levis built a paper mill on Mill Street about where Hack's Canoeing Establishment is now located, which he successfully conducted until 1856 when the paper industry was discontinued. In that year the Levis Mill was taken over by Semple, Burnett & Company, who started manufacturing of the famous S. F. T., six-cord cotton thread, which in the course of a few years became the leading industry of Mount Holly.

The firm at first employed thirty-seven operatives but the business grew so rapidly that in 1867 Samuel Semple & Sons, who had succeeded Semple, Burnett & Company, moved to their new plant at the northwest corner of Washington and King Streets. The new plant was much larger and better equipped than the old and at the height of its prosperity employed between three and four hundred operatives. The property extended northward to the Rancocas.

The Semple concern made a very high grade of cotton thread and the S.F.T. (Soft Finished Thread) was awarded medals at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876 and also at the Boston and Paris exhibitions in 1878. The business passed out of the control of the Semple family in about 1886 and the plant was converted into a carpet factory, which was destroyed by fire in 1896. A solitary smoke stack on the Ancocas Mills property today is the only reminder of the great Semple plant.

In about 1870 the Semple concern organized the Ran-

cocas Navigation Company and the Fleetwing and several barges, built in Bordentown, were placed in commission. The Rancocas was rather shallow for steam navigation and Mr. Semple, through the cooperation and influence of Congressman Hezekiah B. Smith, secured a Federal appropriation of \$20,000 for dredging the channel. The Rancocas is a tidewater stream to Mount Holly and to Lumberton on the South Branch, therefore both branches are under Federal control.

Samuel Semple, the founder of the business, came from Paisley, Scotland, in 1846 and became associated with J. L. & S. Shreve who conducted a Calico factory in Smithville, formerly known as Shreveville. Shortly after Mr. Semple's arrival from Scotland the firm erected a separate factory for the manufacture of spool cotton thread. Samuel Semple, an expert in the making of thread became manager of the new plant. The machinery required for the enterprise was imported from Scotland, the home of the weaving and thread industry at that time. The first spool cotton in the United States is said to have been made in Smithville by Mr. Semple. The Shreve factory was burned in about 1856 and, as previously stated, Samuel Semple moved to Mount Holly and established the business on Mill Street.

Robert Semple, son of the founder, died in 1937 in the 96th year of his age. His son Edwin Semple, an Admiralty lawyer and formerly a United States Marshal, is now living in Mount Holly. Robert Semple when a lad, accompanied his father to hear Charles Dickens lecture in Congress Hall, Philadelphia, and at the conclusion of the lecture by the great novelist secured the glass from which he drank. Edwin Semple now has this interesting relic.

A sketch of the leading early industries of Mount Holly would not be complete without mentioning the Risdon and Alcott Foundries in which high grade turbine water wheels and mill machinery were manufactured. The Risdon Foundry, formerly located on the south side of Church Street between Pine and White, was founded in 1845 under the name "Eagle Foundry Company" by T. H. Risdon & Company. In the "Industrial Directory Ad-

vertisement”⁸ for the year 1850, there appears the following advertisement:

EAGLE FOUNDRY CO. MOUNT HOLLY

Continue to manufacture Casting, in all its various branches, to order, among which are

WATER WHEELS, MILL GEARING, ENGINE WORK,
Stove and Plough Castings, Window Grates &c.

The business was started in the second Episcopal Church in Mount Holly, erected in 1786, and abandoned by the congregation in 1844 when the present imposing church edifice on Main Street was built. A machine shop was established in 1867 by T. H. Risdon & Son on the lot adjoining the church on the west. Fifty mechanics were employed by this firm at the height of its career. The celebrated Risdon Turbine Wheels stood the highest test at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.

The T. C. Alcott & Son Foundry,⁹ established in 1837 by Thomas C. Alcott and Joseph Taylor stood on the southern bank of Rancocas Creek, east of King Street. Thomas C. Alcott was an experienced iron worker, having begun his career in 1831 at the Hanover Furnace in Burlington County. The firm built a small foundry in 1837 twenty by thirty feet. The business was successful from the start and additional buildings were erected in 1840 and 1844.

In 1855 the original frame building was taken down and a large two story building erected. In 1865 Thomas C. Alcott admitted his son Thomas J. into the firm. An additional brick building was erected in 1869. The father died in 1872 and the business was continued by the son, Thomas J. Alcott. The turbine wheels made by the Alcott firm were favorably known throughout this country and many were shipped abroad and to South America.

Candle making was an important industry before kerosene lamps were introduced. Dr. Zachariah Read in his “Annals of Mount Holly,” written in 1859, refers to a candle factory on Water Street and also to one on

Washington. Before the soap business was concentrated in the hands of a few large companies almost every town and village contained a soap factory. There were one or two in Mount Holly in the early decades of the nineteenth century.

Asa Gaskill¹⁰ engaged in the blacksmithing business in 1834 and in 1845 built a shop at the corner of Garden and Buttonwood Streets in which he built light wagons. George H. Peake started to manufacture carriages and sleighs in 1838 at the corner of Washington and Bispham Streets. Later he moved his establishment to Main Street and thence to Water Street.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 13

¹ Woodward and Hageman, 178.

² Ibid, 178.

³ Ibid, 178-179.

⁴ Secretary of State's Office, Liber D, 470.

⁵ Burlington Monthly Meeting Minutes show that he was received on Certificate from Salem Monthly Meeting in 1729.

⁶ Secretary of State, Liber HH, 427.

⁷ I am indebted to Nelson Burr Gaskill for correcting this error.

⁸ N. R. Ewan, of Moorestown, kindly showed a picture of this advertisement to the writer.

⁹ Woodward and Hageman, 212-213.

¹⁰ Ibid, 213.

Chapter 14

FRIENDS MEETINGS AND MEETING HOUSES

IN THIS and the following chapter I will briefly outline the history of the religious organizations established in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The sketches will be largely devoted to the Friends and Episcopalians, the dominant branches of the Christian Church prior to the Revolutionary War. Until 1742, when the Episcopalians erected the little Church on Iron Works Hill, the Quaker meeting house was the only place of public worship in or near Mount Holly. As Mount Holly was distinctly a Quaker settlement until after the Revolution it seems necessary to devote more space to the Religious Society of Friends than to any other denomination.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS. The first meetings for worship in the vicinity of Mount Holly, authorized in 1704, were held in the homes of Restore Lippincott, east of the town, and Daniel Wills, Jr., near Eayrestown. The meeting records show that meetings for worship were held in their homes until 1716 when the meeting house on Wood Lane, near the Cemetery, was erected. The meeting house was authorized by Burlington Monthly Meeting on "ye 2nd day of ye 11th mo, 1715. The minute reads as follows:¹

"Whereas thos friends that are concerned to and for the building of ye Meeting house near Mountholley made application to this meeting for their assent and approbation and advise, And for the Nomination of these friends appointed for that service and whom the trust is reposed to get a title for the land whereon the house is to be built. Which friends so nominated and approved on are Restore Lippincott, Richard Eayres, Samuel Lippincott, John Burr, Thomas Haines and James Lippincott."

The meeting house was built of bricks and it is to be regretted that the dimensions were not given in the minutes. It was advantageously located at the junction of the old roads leading to Slabtown (Jacksonville) and to Burlington. The location of the meeting house so far

out of town would indicate that Mount Holly was then a small village of a very few houses on the old Springfield Road, now known as Mill Street.² The Wood Lane meeting house was used by the Friends of the community until 1775 when the present meeting house on Main Street was erected. The following abstracts of the Mount Holly Monthly Meeting tell the story of its passing.

"8th of 7th month, 1778. Request from Mount Holly Preparative Meeting, this meeting appoints Henry Burr, John Ridgeway, Edward Black, Job Stockton, Joseph Lamb, Aaron Barton and Samuel Shinn to consider that had best be done with the old meeting house out of town and to report their judgment to this meeting."

A subsequent minute, dated 4th mo 11th, 1778, reads: "One of the Friends who had the old meeting house under Care reported that they had met and that it seemed best to them that for the present the house should remain as it now is excepting that the Doors and Windows ought to be done up with rough boards, to which the meeting consents, and that the same Friends before appointed be continued to see that's done."

At a Monthly Meeting held in the Sixth Month, 1780, it was decided:

"That Friends at Mountholley should have the benefit of the Materials of the Mee: House out of town in paying their quota for this House, which being considered is confirmed and the Preparative Mee: of Mountholley is directed to take the proper Care in this Matter."

Township meetings were frequently held in the Wood Lane meeting house until 1747 when the Town Hall (and Market House) was erected in the Plaza at the foot of Main Street. At the time of the Revolutionary War there was a tavern near the meeting house on Wood Lane which was kept by a man named Abraham Winne. During the occupation of Mount Holly by the British Army under General Clinton the old meeting house was used as a stable by the officers.

The Burlington Monthly Meeting minutes show that in 1742 the Mount Holly Friends were granted permission to hold meetings for worship in the town during the winter months. These meetings were held in the homes of the members prior to the erection of the "Little Meeting

House" in 1763. As writers differ as to when this meeting house was built I will quote from the minutes of Burlington Meeting showing that 1763 is the correct date.

3rd of 5th mo. 1762.

"A friend from the Preparative Meeting at Mount Holly informed this meeting that some Friends thought it was for the service of truth that Friends in and about Mount Holly might have liberty to build a Meeting House in said Town by subscription and hold a meeting constantly there when the sd house is done."

4th of 4th mo. 1763.

"A friend from the Committee to consider the application from Mount Holly friends for leave to build a Meeting House in said Town by Contribution among themselves informed the Meeting that the said Committee had several times met. . . . and at length unanimously concurr'd in judgment that they should have liberty to build a House at their own discretion and as soon as they think proper . . . And it was the further opinion that the present Meeting House by the late Samuel Cripps plantation should remain as it is for the benefit of holding Meetings in either at some Burial or in such other manner as Friends may see a service in hereafter, all which the meeting taking into consideration do Concurr with the said Committee and leave Friends belonging to Mount Holly Meeting at Liberty to build a meeting house in such place and manner as they can agree upon."

The minute dated the 7th of 5th mo. 1770, is of interest as it definitely shows that the meeting house north of the Mount was used when prominent Quaker ministers visited the town. Quoting from the minute:

"The request of Friends at Mount Holly to hold their Week-day Meeting in the meeting house in the Town in future was now taken under Consideration and after deliberating thereon, it was Concluded most for the Benefit of Friends there that said Request be Granted—only at such times when Strangers visit them it is Understood that the Meeting shall be held at the Meeting House out of Town when First Day notice of such a Visit can be given."

The "Little Meeting House," located seventy-seven feet north of Mill Street, was reached by a line called "Meeting House Alley" on the western side of the brick house formerly numbered 47.³ It was used as a place of wor-

ship but also as a schoolhouse and John Woolman doubtless frequently worshipped in it. It is probable, as suggested by Amelia Mott Gummere, the Quaker Historian, that the Journalist whose tailor shop stood nearby also taught school there.

In March, 1776, the trustees of the meeting asked permission to dispose of the building as the new meeting house at the corner of Main and Garden Streets had been completed. Permission was granted by Burlington Monthly Meeting in Fourth Month, 1776, "to convey same to a purchaser for a valuable consideration to be applied to the use of Friends of that Meeting toward paying for the lot and new meeting house erected thereon." The Little Meeting House, as it was usually called in the early records, and lot forty feet square, afterwards came into the possession of Peter Shiras, who on May 26, 1804,⁴ conveyed the property to Joseph Cooper. The deed accurately describes the lot and refers to the "little meeting house of the Society of the people called Quakers."

MOUNT HOLLY MONTHLY MEETING. This meeting was set off from Burlington Monthly Meeting in April, 1776. It comprised the following preparative meetings: Mount Holly, Rancocas, Springfield (Copany), Upper Springfield, Shreve's Mount (now Arney's Mount) and a few years later Vincentown. I will briefly outline the establishment of these meetings, with the exception of Mount Holly and Rancocas which have already been described.

SPRINGFIELD MEETING. Located a half mile east of Jacksonville on the old Springfield Road. Established in 1682, it is one of the oldest meetings in the county. The first meetings were held in the homes of Thomas and Ann Barton. A minute of Burlington Monthly Meeting of "Ye 1st of ye 11th mo, 1682, reads:

"It is ordered yt Friends of Esiscunk Creek have a meeting on first Days at Thc: Barton's house for the Winter or till further order."

This was the origin of Springfield Meeting, frequently called Copany.

Copany is a contraction of Mattacopany, the Indian



County Court House, Mount Holly, 1796. Photograph by William H. Roberts, Sr.



County Prison, Mount Holly, 1810. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

name of the stream on which the meeting house stands. Early in the 1690's the Friends of that vicinity began to consider the advisability of erecting a meeting house and in 1694 Burlington Monthly Meeting granted them permission to proceed with the undertaking. The meeting house was authorized by the following minute at a session held on "Ye 4th of ye 12th mo. 1694."

"It is agreed yt ye Meeting house of Springfield is to built of the hither side of Mattacopany Bridge, that is if ye land be to be had convenient for the meeting house."

Fortunately the land did "be to be had" and, according to Samuel Smith, was presented by Richard Ridgway. Nothing further seems to have been done until 1697, when on the "3d of ye 11th mo," the following minute was recorded:

"It is ordered (ye meeting having concluded yt ye Meeting house of Springfield shall be brick) yt ye members of Springfield Meeting do get what subscriptions they can and give an account to ye Monthly Meeting: and also to advise with workmen about ye value of ye building of it and the demensions of ye sd House to be as followeth, vis, 26 foot long and 20 foot wide both within and to give some acco as above sd."

It is interesting to note that Francis Collins, who built the Hexagonal Meeting House and the old Courthouse in Burlington, was the builder of the Springfield Meeting House in 1698. It stood on or very near the site of the present historic meeting house. The records relating to the Springfield Meeting House are most satisfactory as they not only give the material of which it was constructed, the dimensions thereof but also the name of the builder. Springfield Meeting frequently was called Lower or Old Springfield after Upper Springfield Meeting was established in 1726.

The meeting house now standing was erected in 1775 as stated on the western end. On the 6th day of 2d mo, 1775," the following minute was adopted by Burlington Monthly Meeting:

"A Friend from Old Springfield informed the Meeting that they had thoughts of Rebuilding their Meeting house if this meeting

has no objection, which being considered they are left at liberty to perform the work in a becoming manner."

On July 3d, 1775, the day on which Washington assumed command of the American Army at Cambridge, the Burlington Monthly Meeting assembled as usual and calmly adopted the following minute:

"Friends of Old Springfield desiring that a Committee might be appointed to take a Deed for the Ground on which their Old Meeting house stood and for an additional lot which they have purchased the better to accommodate their new house and enlarge their burying ground, David Ridgway, Thomas Pancoast, Robert Grubb, Henry Ridgway, John Hillier, Peter Ellis, William Ridgway and John Brown are appointed for that purpose."

The old meeting house, pleasantly located by the roadside on the bluff overlooking Barker's Brook, a tributary of the Assiscunk, could tell many interesting tales of the Revolution could its walls but speak. On at least two occasions British soldiers passed by the house and after the skirmish between the Americans and British in December, 1776, at "Petticoat Bridge" it was used as a hospital. Petticoat Bridge⁵ spans the Assiscunk about a mile northeast of the meeting house on the road leading to Columbus. Springfield Meeting was laid down many years ago as the Quaker families had moved from the neighborhood. The property was retained by the "Hicksite Friends" after the separation in 1827-1828.

UPPER SPRINGFIELD. Upper Springfield Meeting was established in 1726 and the meeting house erected in 1727 as shown on the date stone over the front entrance. The meeting house is located a good mile and a half northwest of Wrightstown and three miles northeast of Jobstown. Until 1781, when a Monthly Meeting was established, Upper Springfield was a Preparative Meeting under Mount Holly Monthly Meeting. The meeting house was authorized by Burlington Quarterly Meeting at a session held on the "20th of 12th mo, 1726, by the following minute:

"The Friends in the upper part of Springfield, Mansfield and Chesterfield have liberty by this meeting to proceed in building

a new meeting house near William Earle."

The meeting house is the oldest house of worship in the county with the exception of Old St. Mary's Church in Burlington, erected in 1703.

Upper Springfield Monthly Meeting was authorized by the Burlington Quarterly Meeting held on the "27th of 8th mo, 1781," by the following minute:

"The Committee respecting the better regulation of our Preparative Meetings and to consider whether it might be advantageous to Society to Settle a new Monthly Meeting at Springfield, made the following Report, viz: Having met and deliberated on the weighty Matters committed to us and patiently heard each others Sentiments and Prospects thereon, We are with a great degree of Unanimity of the Judgment that a new Monthly Meeting to be settled at Upper Springfield will be useful and Right, to be composed by the Members of that particular Meeting, upper Freehold and Mansfield Meetings, exclusive of the Members of Mansfield Neck Meeting." (Mansfield Neck Meeting was at Bustleton).

The meeting house erected in 1727 was enlarged in 1783, as shown by the committee's report to the Quarterly Meeting on the "24th of 2d mo, 1783." The committee reported that the "House at Upper Springfield is so forward that its thought it will be near finished by the latter part of next month."

Most unfortunately the meeting house was burned in 1909. Some workmen were burning brush in the graveyard back of the wagon sheds and as it was a windy day the sheds caught fire and the flames quickly spread to the shingled roof of the historic landmark. Although the neighbors worked heroically nothing could be done to save the building and when the firemen arrived from Wrightstown there was little left other than the damaged and partially fallen walls.

The meeting had been laid down years before the fire and as there were no Friends living in the immediate community the question of rebuilding was a serious problem. The people of the neighborhood were greatly interested in the landmark and used it on the occasion of funerals.

Largely through the efforts of Martha Engle Gibbs, of Columbus, a faithful member of Upper Springfield Meeting, and John P. Hutchinson, father of Harry Hutchinson who lives near the meeting house, the money was raised and the oldest part of the house rebuilt.

The house as it now appears is practically the same as the one built in 1727. The original bricks were used in the restoration and the date stone is in exactly the same position as it was before the fire. It fell out at that time but was carefully preserved by Herman Croshaw, of Wrightstown, who personally saw that it was placed in the same position as it was originally.

The meeting house is located at the corner of two winding and picturesque roads—formerly Indian Trails. It is a delightfully sequestered spot “far from the madding crowd’s ignoble strife,” where the Quaker pilgrim can spend a pleasant hour wandering in the graveyard or resting beneath the trees in the ravine nearby. A quotation from the beautiful poem entitled “Old Meeting Houses,” written by the late John Russell Hayes, would seem appropriate:

“I love old meeting houses—how my heart
Goes out to those dear silent homes of prayer;
With all their quietude and rustic charm,
Their loved association from old days,
Their hallowed memories! O I could roam
Forever in old Quaker neighborhoods
And muse beneath the oaks and sycamores
That shade those quiet roofs, the evergreens
That guard the lowly graves—and meditate
Upon the kindly hearts that softly sleep
Beneath the violets and wandering vines.”

ARNEY’S MOUNT. The meeting house at Arney’s Mount, formerly known as Shreve’s Mount, is with the exception of the fine old meeting house at Mount Laurel, the only one in the county built of native sandstone. The stone was quarried on the mount back of the graveyard, which rises 230 feet above sea level. The meeting house was built in 1775 and undoubtedly was the first in the im-

mediate neighborhood. Prior to the building of the meeting house now standing, meetings for worship were held in the log schoolhouse that stood at the intersection of the Juliustown and Pemberton Roads. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse as early as 1743, as shown by the following minute of Burlington Monthly Meeting, dated the 3d day of 8th mo, 1743:

"Sundry Friends belonging to the upper part of Mount Holly meeting made application in writing to Burlington Monthly Meeting for liberty to hold a meeting for worship on the first day of each week during the winter season at the meeting house now standing near Caleb Shreve's mount, which the meeting took under consideration."

At the following Monthly Meeting the request was granted. Although the minute definitely mentions a "meeting house" I am quite certain that there was not a meeting house in the vicinity of Arney's Mount at that time. The evidence seems to be rather conflicting. The following lease dated July 30, 1743, seems to prove that the meetings for worship were held in a schoolhouse:⁶

"Jonathan Hough, son of Daniel Hough, leased for a term of fifty years to Caleb Shreve, John West, Michael Atkinson, Joseph Lamb, Julius Ewan, Jacob Shinn, Abraham Merritt, James Langstaff, yeomen, and Benjamin Carter and Isaac Cowgill, planters, one acre of land for the use of a **school house** near the improvements of Nathan Wilson, at the crossing of the great road leading from Bridgeton (Mount Holly) to the now dwelling house of the said Jonathan Hough, with the road that leads from John West's gate to Hanover road, they paying therefor a yearly rent of one penny if demanded; this acre lay at the N. E. end of Caleb Shreve's Mount."

Ephraim Tomlinson, in his journal, says: "On the 20th day of 6th mo., 1771, I was at the marriage of my son-in-law, John Gardiner, at the log meeting house, hard by Julytown." The following extract from the Minutes of Burlington Monthly Meeting, dated "the 5th day of the 12th mo., 1774," indicates that the early meetings were held in the schoolhouse:

"To the monthly meeting of Friends of Burlington: We the subscribers with others having obtained liberty of holding a meeting

for religious worship near Shreve's Mount have hitherto met in a school house which we find very inconvenient for that purpose and therefore are desirous of building a small comfortable house, in which we request the meeting's concurrence to be signified in such a manner as may leave us at liberty to accomplish it as soon as possible. N. B. Likewise to name persons to take title for land for that use."

Jacob Shinn, Francis Shinn, William Lovett Smith, Restore Shinn, Samuel Shinn, John Coate, James Smith.

Which being considered and approved, Daniel D. Smith, Samuel Shinn, Samuel Allison, John Comfort, Peter Ellis, John Hillier and Edward Black are appointed to take a deed of trust for the ground."

The lot on which the meeting house and graveyard are located was conveyed to the above named trustees on "2d mo 13, 1775," by Jonathan Hough, Jr. The deed reads:

"Conveyed to Daniel D. Smith (and the other trustees), the survivor or survivors of them in trust one acre, two roods and twenty-five perches of land to and for the purpose of building a meeting house thereon for the people called Quakers and for a place to bury their dead." Consideration one shilling.⁷

The meeting house was erected and a Preparative Meeting established in 1776. The meeting house is pleasantly located at the foot of the eastern slope of Arney's Mount (named for Arney Lippincott) at the corner of the roads leading to Juliustown and Pemberton. The view of the surrounding country is especially attractive.

The roof and much of the woodwork were burned on February 17, 1800; the floor being saved by throwing snow upon it. In 1809, on the night following the funeral of Mary Hough, widow of the donor of the lot on which the meeting house stands, it again caught fire and was completely destroyed with the exception of the stone walls. Visitors frequently notice the name "S. Smith" cut in a stone near the front door and wonder at its significance. Mrs. Sarah Forsyth Willson, who formerly lived in the neighborhood, told the writer that it was the name of her great-great grandfather, Samuel Smith, who built the meeting house in 1775.

The Arney's Mount property belongs to Mount Holly

Monthly Meeting (Hicksite) and meetings for worship are held every Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock except during the winter season. At times a speaker addresses the gathering at the close of the meeting for worship. George M. Johnson, of Pemberton, and William Bacon Evans, of Moorestown, are especially interested in the meeting.

VINCENTOWN. Vincentown Meeting was authorized by Burlington Monthly Meeting in 1765 and prior to that time the Friends living in that neighborhood probably drove to Mount Holly to attend meetings for worship. Before 1716, when the first meeting house near Mount Holly was erected, they probably attended the meetings that were held in the home of Daniel Wills, Jr., near Eayrestown.

On 7th month 1st, 1765, Burlington Monthly Meeting recorded the following minute:

"A written Proposal from Sundry Friends living near Vincentown for keeping an afternoon Meeting at a School House lately erected near William Bishop's was read and agreed to, under Care of Hezekiah Jones."

A subsequent minute, dated the 1st day of 6th mo, 1766, authorized holding meetings in the schoolhouse during the winter season also. The school undoubtedly was a Quaker school, though not officially under the care of the meeting at that early date. The William Bishop farm was located near the village on the Pemberton Road and the schoolhouse was near the Railroad Station. Some of the older residents of Vincentown may remember the old schoolhouse.

Mount Holly Monthly Meeting was established in 1776 and the Vincentown meeting became a Preparative Meeting under its care. In 1777 the Vincentown Friends asked for and were granted liberty to hold meetings for worship in the schoolhouse on First-day morning and in the following year permission was given to hold mid-week meetings also. It is evident all meetings were held in the schoolhouse until 1782 when the first meeting house was erected.

Vincentown Friends made application to Mount Holly Monthly Meeting in 1781 for permission to build a meeting house, as shown by the following minute, dated 7th month 4th, 1781:

"The Friends near Vincentown Meeting request this Meeting to appoint some persons to take a Deed in Trust for a Lot of Land, in order to build a Meeting House on for Friends in that place. William Bishop, John White, Samuel Hilliar, Hudson Burr, William Burr and Isaac Barton are appointed for that service."

The following minute was recorded on 5th month 8th, 1782:

"The Friends of Vincentown Meeting request Liberty of Holding their Meetings as usual the ensuing year which this Meeting unites with, and the same Friends request leave to Build a Meeting House on a lot of land near Vincentown which was given for that purpose, as soon as they conveniently can which this Meeting agrees to."

The lot on which the meeting house was erected was conveyed to the trustees by Anna Leeds, widow of Vincent Leeds, on July 12, 1781, "for the consideration of five shillings." The meeting house, supposedly a frame building, stood where the Grange Hall is located on Main Street. In 1813 it was replaced by a brick building, the walls of which are incorporated in Grange Hall. The Grangers are to be commended for leaving the date stone of the meeting house in the wall fronting the street. The meeting house and lot containing 42/100 acres were sold to the Vincentown Grange in 1911 for \$800.00.

FRIENDS SCHOOL. The first Friends School in Mount Holly under the care of the Preparative Meeting was established in 1779 but as a schoolhouse was not erected until 1783 it is probable that the school was kept in the meeting house for a few years. The Monthly Meeting considered the question of establishing a school shortly after its organization in 1776. In Twelfth Month, 1778, Henry Burr, John West, Asa Shinn, John Gardner, Joseph Burr and Tanton Earl were named as a committee to give the matter consideration.

A lot for school purposes was purchased from George

West on December 21, 1779 and title was taken by John Comfort and others as trustees of the meeting. A minute of Mount Holly Monthly Meeting recorded on 8th month 9th, 1780, reported: "There is one School established in Mountholly which is under the direction of the Preparative Meeting." The following minute of the Monthly Meeting, dated 12th month 9th, 1782, definitely shows that the schoolhouse was built in 1783:

"Mount Holly Preparative Meeting requests the Liberty of Building a School House on a Lott of Land adjoining the grave-yard which was purchased of George West, which being considered this Meeting grants them their Request and the School is to be under the direction of Friends."

In August, 1784, a Monthly Meeting minute stated: "That a School house and dwelling were established at Mount Holly but no School held at that time." In 1788 the school was reported to be in operation. This schoolhouse and master's dwelling were located on Brainerd Street, a little west of the Methodist Church and on the line of the Friends graveyard.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 14

¹ The Burlington Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meeting records, as well as the Mount Holly Monthly Meeting Minute Book may be consulted at the Friends Book Store, 302 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

² The Old Springfield Road followed the general course of Mill and Branch Streets and the Monmouth Road.

³ The brick houses numbered 45 and 47 were recently demolished and the "Acme Super Market" now stands on the two lots.

⁴ County Clerk's Office, Book V, 491.

⁵ According to local tradition the women of the neighborhood destroyed the bridge at the approach of the British troops in June, 1778. Hence the name—Petticoat Bridge. However, as the name Petticoat Bridge is mentioned in an old road record in 1769 (Road Book A, 41) and in Margaret Hill Morris Morris's Journal in December, 1776, this cannot be the origin of the name.

⁶ Surveyors Association, 65.

Chapter 15

ST. ANDREWS AND LATER CHURCHES

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH. As previously stated the Friends and Episcopalians, the Church of England prior to the Revolutionary War, were the first branches of the Christian Church to become firmly established in Burlington County. Notwithstanding the fact that these two groups represent the opposite poles of theology and church practice the Friends and Episcopalians, generally speaking, have lived in harmony and mutual respect.

The first Episcopal Church in Mount Holly, erected in 1742, stood on "Iron Works Hill" on Pine Street, south of the Rancocas. It was a Mission under the care of Old St. Mary's in Burlington, until St. Andrews Parish was constituted in 1765. In 1742 Rev. Colin Campbell, rector of St. Mary's, said in a letter to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts:¹

"At a place called Mount Holly about eight miles from Burlington, the people have built a handsome church and given it by a deed of gift to the Society and three other Trustees of whom the missionary is to be always one."

On March 31st and April 1st, 1742, Mahlon Stacy, Isaac Pearson and John Burr by "Lease and Release" conveyed the plot of ground, now occupied by St. Andrews Cemetery, to Philo Leeds, Samuel Woolston and Colin Campbell. The lease reads in part:²

"That piece or parcell of land Situate and being in Bridgetown . . . beginning at a Stone for a corner on the south side of the North Main Branch of Northampton River, corner to John Bennett's Plantation and is bounded by the same . . . containing two acres full measure." The lease further reads: "for one whole year thenceforth fully to be Compleat & ended Yielding & paying therefore & thereout unto the said Mahlon Stacy, Isaac Pearson and John Burr their Heirs or assigns the rent of one Pepper corn only at the ffeast of Easter next ensuing (if the same be lawfully



Old Schoolhouse, Mount Holly, 1759. Photograph by William Roberts, Sr.



John Woolman Memorial, 1783, 99 Branch Street, Mount Holly.
Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

demanded)."

The Release reads in part:

"Held in Special Trust to the use of the Honourable the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts now residing in London & their successors forever to the intent that a Church **may** be Built thereon for the celebration of Divine Service after the Manner of the Church of England as by law Established and for a Burial place for the dead of the Congregation of Protestants to assemble there forever and to no other use, Intent or Purpose whatsoever."

In these deeds title is traced to Thomas Bryant and thence to Francis Collins. The little church erected on this lot in 1742 stood in the northern part of the Cemetery on the site of Alexander Shiras' grave. The headstone on the grave is marked: "He lies at his own request where the first church stood." An attractive monument was erected near the headstone, bearing a design of the church in **bas relief** and the year 1742 when it was erected. It was the gift of the late Edward B. Levis, a prominent and faithful member of St. Andrews Church.

The cemetery, beautifully located on the hill, at the foot of which the picturesque Rancocas winds its way to the Delaware beyond, is one of the most interesting and attractive spots in Mount Holly. One could spend a restful and profitable hour wandering over the well-kept walks and reading the epitaphs of the departed worthies.

"Each in his narrow cell forever laid
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

The oldest grave in the cemetery seems to be that of Ann Briggs, who died in 1742 in the 27th year of her age. The Dobbins Memorial Chapel, used at the time of funerals, was erected in 1879 as a Memorial to Mary Hiliard Dobbins by her sons, Edward T., and Murrell Dobbins. The cemetery has a most interesting Revolutionary history, as Colonel Griffin was stationed here with about 600 militia in December, 1776, and fought an artillery duel with the British, stationed on the mount north of the town. A number of cannon balls and grapeshot have been found in the vicinity of the cemetery. According

to tradition, a cannon lies in the creek at the base of the hill.

The second Episcopal Church was erected in 1786 and stood on the south side of Church Street about midway between Pine and White Streets. It was a handsome building for its day and served the needs of the congregation until 1844 when the imposing edifice now standing on High Street was erected. The end walls of the church formed part of the Risdon Foundry, which is no longer standing. The year 1786 was built in the western end of the church in black header bricks.

St. Andrews Parish was instituted in 1765.³ Rev. Colin Campbell, John Munrow, Thomas Cooper, Thomas Budd, Samuel Woolston, John Clark, David Jones, James Dobbins, William Woolston, James Allen, Joseph Murrell, Peter Bard and John Budd, managers and overseers of St. Andrews Church of Mount Holly, presented a "humble petition" to Governor William Franklin praying for a Royal Charter of Incorporation in that year.

The members of the "body politic and corporate" named in the charter were: Rev. Colin Campbell, Thomas Budd, John Munrow, John Clark, Thomas Reynolds, John Budd, Samuel Woolston, Thomas Cooper, William Woolston, Daniel Jones, William Budd, William Budd, Jr., of New Hanover, Daniel Toy, James Dobbins, Sr., and James Galby "and their successors to be elected as in hereinafter subscribed." The Charter was granted by King George III on October 28, 1765, and is now the Church's most prized possession. The Church now has 340 communicants. Rev. Thomas L. Ridout was in charge of St. Andrews from 1929 to 1947. The Rev. Marion L. Matics is now the rector.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.⁴ The First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly was organized in 1839 but the seeds of Presbyterianism were planted prior to the Revolutionary War. In 1768 John Brainerd, brother of the gifted David Brainerd, moved to Mount Holly from Brotherton (now Indian Mills) where he had been stationed as the Presbyterian Missionary to the West Jersey Indians. In 1761 Brainerd had purchased a lot of land on

the northern side of New Street (now Brainerd), part of which he sold to the Society of Friends in 1775 for a meeting house and graveyard. It is probable that his log or frame church was erected shortly after purchasing the lot as not infrequently he referred to his "preaching station" at Mount Holly before he moved to that town.

The little church or meeting house stood on the site of the Methodist Church on Brainerd Street. The graveyard was located east of the Methodist Church. Like the Friends Meeting House on Wood Lane, the Presbyterian Church was used as a stable by the British Officers during the Revolutionary War. The church was burned by the British soldiers when they entered Mount Holly in June, 1778, in retaliation for a patriotic sermon that John Brainerd had preached in Blackwoodstown.

John Brainerd was catholic in his views and the doors of his mission churches at Indian Mills, Vincentown and Mount Holly were ever open to ministers of other Evangelical Churches. Thomas Rankin, one of the early Methodist preachers, wrote in his diary under date of September 1, 1774, as follows:⁵

"I rode to New Mills and preached to a large number of people, and on Friday I rode to Mount Holly and preached in the Presbyterian Meeting House to an attentive congregation; I found profit and pleasure at this opportunity. Here I met with Mr. John Brainerd, brother and successor of that great and good man, Mr. David Brainerd, missionary to the Indians. I spent an agreeable hour with him after preaching."

John Brainerd moved back to Brotherton in 1775 and in 1777 settled in Deerfield, Cumberland County. He was pastor of the Deerfield Presbyterian Church until his death in 1781. His church in Mount Holly was not rebuilt and apparently there was no congregation of Presbyterians in the town until 1833, a period of fifty-five years. It is hard to understand why the Presbyterian faith did not get firmly established in Burlington County at an earlier date, especially when we recall that the Presbyterian Church was dominant in Monmouth County and very strong in Mercer during the eighteenth century.

In about 1833 Rev. John Plotts, a Presbyterian clergy-

man, and his brother Comley moved to Mount Holly and shortly afterwards established a school for boys in the old Academy building at the northwest corner of Brainerd and Buttonwood Streets. John Plotts fitted up a room on the second floor in which he held religious services until 1839. There were only a few Presbyterians living in or near Mount Holly at that time but others were convinced by his earnest preaching. Mr. Plotts died in 1839 and shortly after his death the Presbytery of Philadelphia appointed a committee for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church in Mount Holly. Rev. Courtland Van Rensselaer, pastor of the Church in Burlington, "a bright and shining light" was appointed chairman of the committee.

On October 26, 1839, Rev. John McDowell, D.D., of Philadelphia, preached a powerful sermon in Mount Holly, after which he invited those desiring to establish a Presbyterian Church to remain and present their credentials. The following persons were received as members on presenting their letters of dismissal from their home Churches: Comley Plotts, Samuel Burtis, Jr., Miss Anna Beatty and Hannah Plotts, widow of Rev. John Plotts. Miss Elizabeth Lanning was received into membership on her profession of faith. On the following day Dr. McDowell again preached in Mount Holly and the First Presbyterian Church was formally organized. Comley Plotts and Samuel Burtis, Jr., were the first Elders of the new Church.

The present handsome brown stone edifice on Garden Street was erected in 1887. Rev. John David Burton is now pastor and the Church now has 494 communicants. The Sunday School has a membership of 200.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH.⁶ Captain Thomas Webb, of the English Army, who scaled the "Heights of Abraham" with General Wolfe in 1759, is generally regarded as the founder of the Methodist Church in New Jersey. He joined the Church in England in 1765 and shortly afterwards was authorized to preach by John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church. Captain Webb preached a powerful sermon in Pemberton in 1770

which aroused great interest in the doctrines of the Church in Burlington County. As far as the writer can learn he never preached in Mount Holly. The first Methodist Church in the county was erected at Pemberton in 1775 on a lot deeded to the trustees by William Budd, Jr.

The first Methodist sermon in Mount Holly was preached by Rev. George Shadford, a Wesleyan minister, who, when passing through the town preached on two occasions in the Presbyterian Church on Brainerd Street. The exact date of his visit is not known but it must have been before June, 1778, when the British soldiers burned Brainerd's little church. In 1781 New Jersey was divided into two Circuits, East and West Jersey and Caleb B. Pedicord and Joseph Cromwell were assigned to the latter field. These devoted ministers of the Gospel frequently preached in Mount Holly and under their ministry Thomas Ware was "awakened" and afterwards became a faithful and earnest minister.

Early in the 1790's a small Methodist Society was formed in Mount Holly, which included in its membership two local preachers, Daniel Jones and John Walker. Daniel Jones died shortly after the organization of the Society and as John Walker moved to Philadelphia, the little group was left without a shepherd and gradually dwindled in membership until only two faithful members were left. Interest in the Society lay dormant until 1805, when John W. Sterling, an ardent Methodist, settled in Mount Holly. Gamaliel Bailey, a lay preacher, settled in the town a year or two afterwards. A new class was formed under the leadership of John W. Sterling. The Burlington Circuit, organized in 1789, took the class in charge and Mount Holly became a regular preaching station.

In 1809 Rev. Joseph Totten, presiding Elder for New Jersey, held a Quarterly Meeting in Mount Holly and when he preached the audience could not all get in the building. Mr. Totten preached from the doorway and at the conclusion of his sermon earnestly advocated building a house of worship large enough to accommodate the

people who desired to hear the Word of God. His appeal was not unavailing and shortly afterwards a Board of Trustees was organized, consisting of Gamaliel Bailey, John W. Sterling, William N. Shinn, David Monroe, Samuel Risdon, Curtis Dick and Samuel Forker. Samuel Risdon and William N. Shinn were named as a building committee and in 1810 the first Methodist Church in Mount Holly was erected under its supervision. It was a plain brick building thirty-six feet square and stood on the south side of Brainerd Street, near Main.

In 1833 Mount Holly became a regular station and Rev. John Buckley was appointed pastor. The membership grew so rapidly during the next few years that it was decided to sell the old church and erect a larger edifice on the same site. The pastor, Rev. J. L. Lenhart, William N. Shinn, Clayton Monroe, Isaac N. Risdon and Benjamin Stratton, M.D., were named as a building committee and a new church erected in 1839. The present church on the northern side of Brainerd Street was erected in 1883. Rev. Paul C. Greiner is the present minister and the Church has a membership of 680.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.⁷ The town of Pemberton, formerly New Mills, should be remembered as the cradle of the Baptist Faith in Burlington County, as there the first Baptist Church was erected in 1752. The lot on which it stood was deeded by Michael Woolston to Francis Briggs, Trustee of the Baptist Society.

In 1784 Rev. Peter Wilson, pastor of the Baptist Church in Hightstown, preached in Mount Holly on several occasions. Through the influence of Mr. Wilson, Joshua Smith, of New England, came to Mount Holly in the winter of 1795 and held a series of religious meetings. These two earnest Christian workers were the first to arouse interest in the Baptist Faith in the town. Rev. Alexander McGowan, a personal friend of Joshua Smith, however, is generally regarded as the father of the Church.

Mr. McGowan formerly was a Presbyterian Minister at Trenton and is said to have been converted to the Baptist Faith while preparing to meet Rev. Peter Wilson in

debate. He settled in Pemberton in 1795 and alternated between that place and Mount Holly. He was a zealous and gifted minister and a man of pleasing personality. Though he was never the accredited minister at Mount Holly he preached there quite frequently until his death in 1813.

It was largely through Mr. McGowan's efforts and influence that the first Baptist Church on Brainerd Street was erected in 1800. The Church officially was organized on November 7, 1801, with thirty-six members, most of whom brought letters of dismissal from the parent Church at New Mills. The first Church Council consisted of Rev. Samuel Jones, D.D., Rev. William Staughton, D.D., Rev. Peter Wilson and William White. Jesse Cox, Henry Chambers and John Pippet were the first Deacons, and George Langstaff, Jesse Cox, Henry Chambers and Francis Austin the first Trustees. A brief yet impressive Covenant was adopted on the same day.

In 1805 the Church lost fifty-five members by letters of dismissal to the newly organized Baptist Church near Marlton, which was indeed a serious blow to the infant Church. During the first twenty-eight years of its existence the Church had a hard struggle and could not support a regular pastor. Services, however, were generally held on the Sabbath. In 1829 Rev. James Sheppard, of Salem, New Jersey, accepted a call and remained in Mount Holly for seven years, during which seventy-five converts were baptized. Rev. Samuel Cornelius, of Alexandria, Virginia, one of the organizers of the Baptist Publication Society, accepted a call to the Mount Holly Church in 1837 and remained for three years. He was a man of strong character and under his leadership the Church was greatly strengthened.

A large church building was erected on Garden Street in 1843 on the site of the edifice now standing. It measured 64 by 47 feet and had a seating capacity of nearly five hundred. It has since been remodelled and enlarged. In 1859 Rev. Samuel Aaron, a former Baptist Minister of Burlington, was called and served as pastor of the Mount Holly Church until his death in 1865. He was an

able preacher, a temperance lecturer of note, an educator of distinction as well as an ardent abolitionist. Rev. John Peterson is now the pastor and the Church has a membership of 440.

MOUNT MORIAH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.⁸ Prior to 1826 the Negroes of Mount Holly worshipped mainly in private houses. In March, 1826, a lot was purchased on West Washington Street and a frame church building, 24 by 30 feet, was erected. This building stood on or near the site of the present Church.

The Society was organized largely by Robert Evans, ably assisted by Delia Johnson, an evangelist of the African Methodist Church. They were intelligent and faithful workers for the welfare of the Negro Race. Miss Johnson was known as "Aunt Delia" and was greatly loved by the Negroes and highly respected by the whites. Among the efficient members of the Society were Wardell Parker, a local preacher, Charles Green and Achsa Waterman.

In 1862 a substantial frame Church, 30 by 45 feet, was erected but unfortunately was destroyed by a tornado in the following year. A new Church was erected on the same site. The present pastor is the Rev. J. W. Christian.

The most notable negro in the neighborhood of Mount Holly was Willam Boen (or Bowen) who eventually became a Friend. He was a remarkable man and a very earnest Christian. He was a slave owned by Moses Haines, of Springfield, who had agreed to set him free when he arrived at the age of thirty. After his manumission he would neither eat or wear anything produced by the servitude of his race.

He courted Dido, a servant of Jane Abbott Burr, who lived in the fine old stone mansion on Burr's Road, now the residence of Mrs. Norman W. Harker. William Boen was at heart a Friend and he and Dido greatly desired to be married by the Friends ceremony. However, he was not a member of Friends' Meeting and as the Society of Friends did not admit Negroes at that time they could

not be married under the care of the Mount Holly Meeting. William was a friend and great admirer of John Woolman and the latter arranged a Friends Meeting in the home, supposedly of Joseph Burr on Burr's Road, at which meeting they were duly married by the Friends' Ceremony. The wedding took place on May 3, 1763.

William Boen was admitted to membership in the Mount Holly Meeting in 1814. After his death in 1824 in his 90th year the Mount Holly Meeting a Testimony about him. He had been an earnest and upright member of the Society of Friends for ten years.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART.⁹ The Catholic Church celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its services in Mount Holly on April 11, 1948. In 1843 a sailing vessel arrived at Burlington from Ireland carrying a number of members of the Roman Catholic Church. Many of them settled in Burlington and others came to Mount Holly and were responsible for establishing the Church of the Sacred Heart. In 1848 Father James Mackin, of Trenton, occasionally came to Mount Holly and held services wherever he could find a place.

In 1852 Father Hugh Lane arrived from St. Theresa's Church in Philadelphia and erected the first Catholic Church on Mount Holly Avenue. It was a frame building 25x65 feet. In the course of years the building became too small to hold the congregation. The Foy family were devout Catholics and started a mission on Church Street. In 1871 Father Thaddeus Hogan came to Mount Holly as rector of the Church and during his rectorship a large lot was purchased on West Washington Street, to which the old church building was moved.

The site of the present church edifice was purchased from the Bispham family and Father Hogan started to build the brick structure in 1872. It was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. M. A. Corrigan on October 19, 1879. Father Hogan established the first Catholic School in Mount Holly, which was held in the old church on Washington Street. The school was taught by Miss Bernardin with the attendance of sixty pupils. Father Hogan was succeeded by the Rev. James A. Walsh in 1874, who re-

mained for one year. The present Priest is the Rev. James S. Foley and the Church has 1275 members.

TRINITY PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Trinity Church, an offshoot of St. Andrew's Church in Mount Holly, was virtually established at a meeting held in the residence of Peter V. Coppuck on May 19, 1859. The Church was not legally organized until July 19. At a meeting held on June 28, 1859, Peter V. Coppuck was chosen the first Senior Warden and George McHenry, Junior Warden. The following vestrymen were elected at this meeting: Richard C. Shreve, Charles Brown, John E. Polhemus, Charles Bispham, Dr. George S. Schirley, Franklin B. Levis and Charles H. Hollinshead.

Charles Bispham, one of the first vestrymen, donated the lot on which the church was erected. It was located on the northern side of Washington Street, not far from Main Street, where a double house now stands, numbered 15 and 16. The corner stone of the new church building was laid on July 18, 1859. The church edifice was consecrated by Bishop William H. Odenheimer on March 15, 1860. Services were held in the Court House until the new church was ready for occupancy in July, 1860.

The Rev. DeWitt C. Byllesby, of Pittsburgh, was the first rector of Trinity Church and entered upon his duties on Sunday, October 9, 1859. He resigned in 1871, having received a call from his former parish in Pittsburgh. In 1883 Trinity Church had 140 communicants. The late Dr. Arthur Lord bought the church property in 1905 and took down the building. Some of the bricks were used in the house now standing on Washington Street. The pews were sent to Florida and other places. The house is now owned by Dr. Lord's widow, Mrs. Theresa R. Lord.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 15

¹ Dr. Hills, 259.

² Secretary of State's Office.

³ Woodward and Hageman, 191.

⁴ This sketch is based on an article written by Rev. D. C. Porter,



John Woolman's Shop, 47 Mill Street, Mount Holly. No longer standing.
 Photograph by William H. Roberts, Sr.



Stephen Girard House, 211 Mill Street, Mount Holly. Photograph by
 N. R. Ewan.

pastor in 1883. Woodward and Hageman, 192.

⁵ Woodward and Hageman, 192.

⁶ This sketch is based on an article written by Clayton Monroe, a member of the Church. Woodward and Hageman, 189.

⁷ Woodward and Hageman, 193.

⁸ Ibid, 197.

⁹ This sketch is based on the account of the 100th Anniversary which appeared in the Mount Holly Herald of April 2, 1948, and also upon an account in Woodward and Hageman, pages 195-196, written by Rev. E. Burke, a former pastor.

¹⁰ Woodward and Hageman, pp.196-7. This article in W and H was written by Franklin B. Levis, a former warden.

Chapter 16

LANDMARKS IN AND NEAR MOUNT HOLLY

COUNTY COURT HOUSE.¹ The Court House, which passed its 150th birthday in 1946, was erected in 1796 on land purchased from Joseph Powell for 210 pounds. The commissioners were: Major Richard Cox, Zachariah Rossell and Joseph Budd. Michael Rush was the contractor and Samuel Lewis, master carpenter and architect, superintended the construction of the building. This beautiful old Court House, regarded by architects and antiquarians as one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in the country, is one of Mount Holly's most valuable assets and outstanding attractions.

Early in the 1790's the old Court House in Burlington, which had served the needs of the county for more than a century, was found to be so dilapidated that it seemed necessary to erect a new building, rather than to repair the old. A movement was then started to locate the County Seat in a more central location. After considerable agitation the State Legislature passed an Act authorizing the holding of a special election to decide upon its location.

There were three candidates for the honor, Burlington, Mount Holly and Black Horse, now Columbus. The election was held in the Town Hall, Mount Holly, on February 18, 1795, which proved to be an eventful day for the little town on the Rancocas. Mount Holly won the election by a plurality of 244; the vote being as follows: Mount Holly 1676, Burlington 1432, Black Horse 142.

The election was bitterly contested and there were many charges and counter-charges of fraud by the excited adherents of Burlington and Mount Holly. The Mount Holly supporters were accused—I assume by the Burlingtonians—of bringing charcoal burners from the pines, who with dingy faces voted under their own names in the morning and later in the day, after washing their faces and hands in the millrace, voted again under as-

sumed names.

The Court House resembles Congress Hall at Sixth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, though in some respects it is more beautiful. The late Judge Slaughter informed the writer that Samuel Lewis, the architect of the Court House, worked on Congress Hall, which doubtless accounts for the resemblance. The portico and front doorway of the Mount Holly building are especially attractive. The graceful fanlight above the front entrance and the arched windows with green shutters give the building a distinctive colonial appearance. The State Coat of Arms cut in marble above the entrance, the work of John Eckstein the celebrated sculptor, was the gift of Isaac Hazellurst, whose park-like home was located at the corner of Garden Street and the Jacksonville Road.

The bell, which formerly hung in the old Court House in Burlington, was cast in England in 1755 and was purchased by the county in 1772. It is said to have been rung in 1776 when the news of the signing of the Declaration of Independence reached Burlington. The interior of the Court House is quaint and interesting, the stairway to the second floor being especially attractive. The interior has been changed considerably since the building was erected. In the center of the courtroom there formerly was a raised platform surrounded by a railing for the jurors. A large folding door in the center of the lobby admitted the visitors. On each side of the entrance there was a balcony for the accommodation of the spectators. There originally was a room or pen in the basement for the prisoners. This was abandoned when the stone prison was erected in 1810.

The small buildings on either side of the Court House were erected in 1807. They harmonize perfectly with the central building. The one to the south is the Surrogate's Office and to the north is the Administration Building. The buttonwood trees in front of the Court House were set out in 1805, as shown by the records of the Freeholders. The cannon mounted near the front entrance of the Court House is an interesting Revolutionary relic. It served as a fender at the gristmill for many years and

after the mill was burned in 1910 it was moved to its present position and mounted by Camp 71, P.O.S. of A. It is an American cannon and Judge Slaughter, who was greatly interested in the early history of Mount Holly, was of the opinion that it was captured by the British and spiked at the time of the skirmish on December 23, 1776. However, it was not made in Mount Holly as stated on the pedestal. There is no evidence that cannon were made in the Iron Works on south Pine Street. Probably it was made in Mount Holly Springs, Pennsylvania.

THE COUNTY JAIL. The old stone prison north of the County Buildings, perhaps the oldest in the State, was erected in 1810 on land purchased from Zachariah Rossell for 210 pounds. Robert Mills, of Philadelphia, was the architect. In 1808 he submitted plans for a "Debtors gaol and workhouse," which was approved by the commissioners. His plans were accompanied by a brief outlining his views on the proper management of a prison, which show him to have been an advanced thinker on the science of penology. The last item suggests the following as a suitable inscription to place over the door of a prison: "Justice, Which While it Punishes, Would endeavor to Reform the Offender."

The old prison has been changed but little since its erection in 1810. The stone steps at the front entrance, the iron railing, the nail-studded front door with its huge lock and key, as well as the iron keys above the entrance, are all originals. In back of the prison there is a large garden inclosed by a high stone wall, the work all being done by the prisoners.

The prison is inadequate to meet the needs of the county today and there is much talk of enlarging it. It is earnestly hoped that when it is enlarged that the old prison will not be disturbed, as it is one of the most interesting landmarks in the county.

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE. Historically speaking the Friends Meeting House at the corner of Main and Garden Streets, erected in 1775 on land purchased from John Brainerd, is perhaps the most interesting landmark

in Mount Holly. It was enlarged in 1850 by adding a second story with gallery. It is the only building in the town directly associated with the events of the Revolutionary War. When the British Army camped in Mount Holly over the week-end in June, 1778, it was used by the Hessians as a commissariat and slaughter house. Marks of the butcher's cleavers may be seen on one of the benches and the grooves on one of the posts in the eastern end of the old house are said to have been made by the butchers when dragging the cattle in to be slaughtered.

Two sessions of the State Legislature were held in the meeting house in November, 1779, which reminds us that Mount Holly was the Capital of New Jersey for several weeks at that time. The Minutes of the Legislature on file in the State Library, Trenton, show that all of its sessions were held in Mount Holly from November 8 to December 26, 1779. A minute dated November 5th reads: "House adjourned to meet at Mount Holly on Monday next at three of the clock." No reason was given for leaving Trenton but the following news item appearing in the New Jersey Gazette on November 10, 1779, clearly explains their hasty flight from the Capital:

"Friday last the honorable and General Assembly of the State adjourned to meet at Mountholly on Monday following for the dispatch of Public business. We are informed that the enemy to the number of 1,500 or 2,000 are upon Staten Island and have collected a considerable number of flat bottom boats at Billop Point in order, it is said, to make a descent into the State; but from the disposition of several detachments of the Continental Army as well as our militia we flatter ourselves they will be frustrated in their predatory designs."

The following Legislative record, dated November 13 (Saturday), 1779, clearly shows that two joint sessions of the Council and Assembly were held in the meeting house:

"Ordered that Mr. Smock and Mr. Stille do wait on the Council and Assembly with a copy of the list of nominations of State and County officers and request a reciprocal exchange and that they will meet this house in Joint-Meeting on Monday next at three

of the clock afternoon, at the **Friends meeting house.**"

The records also show that the two houses met in the meeting house on November 17. The Friends meeting records do not refer to the fact that the Legislature occupied the meeting house and it is probable that the building was commandeered by the State Government. The final session of the Legislature was held in Mount Holly on Sunday, December 26, at the close of which the House adjourned "to meet at Trenton on Wednesday, the 15th day of February next."

Governor William Livingston issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation at Mount Holly on November 9, 1779, naming Thursday, December 9, as Thanksgiving Day. It was given under authority of a Resolution adopted by the Assembly on October 20, 1779, and apparently was the first Thanksgiving Proclamation issued by the State Government. The proclamation concluded as follows:

Given under my hand and seal at arms in Mountholly in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine in the fourth year of the Independence of America.

Wil Livingston

Bowes Reed, Secretary

GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE

Many noted Quaker worthies were buried in the graveyard on Garden Street, back of the meeting house, including Josiah White and Sarah Ellis Woolman, widow of the Journalist. Sarah Woolman's grave is quite near the street and is marked by a suitably inscribed stone. John Woolman died in England in 1772 and his body was never brought to this country.

At the time of the unfortunate separation in the Society of Friends in 1827-1828, the property was held by the "Hicksite Friends" and meetings for worship are held every Sabbath-Day. After the separation the "Orthodox Friends" erected a small frame meeting house on Buttonwood Street, north of Brainerd, which is no longer standing. The "Orthodox" meeting was laid down many years ago and the meeting house was used by the Public School for a time and later as a Community Center.

BRAINERD SCHOOLHOUSE. The so-called Brainerd Schoolhouse on the north side of Brainerd Street, was erected in 1759 by a group of public spirited citizens. It is the oldest schoolhouse in the county and probably in the State. The group met on June 26, 1759, and entered into an agreement to raise a fund for the education of youth and divided the stock into twenty-five shares, which were taken by Henry Paxson, Josiah White, John Bispham, Thomas Shinn, John Hatkinson, Zachariah Rossell, John Monrow, John Budd, Daniel Jones and others. The deed, dated September 21, 1759, is recorded in Trenton and reads:²

"John Brock of Chester to Henry Paxson, Esq. John Monrow, Alexander Ross, John Clark, John Hatkinson, of Northampton Township a certain lot of land lying and being on the north side of New Street (now Brainerd) in Bridgetown containing 17½ perches. Consideration 8 pounds, 10 shillings proclamation money."

In the margin of the deed are written the words "For School Land." On the above lot a brick schoolhouse, measuring 24'3" by 20'3" and 8' in height, was erected shortly after the lot was purchased. It contained one large room with an arched ceiling 10 feet high in the center. On November 13, 1775, the stockholders were assessed 7 shillings, 6 pence "to be applied towards purchasing a Cain Stove for the use of the School House and whatever repairs is needful to be done for the House."

The old schoolhouse was used for a number of years by the Public School and is now in the possession of the Female Benevolent Association, organized in 1814.

JOHN WOOLMAN'S SHOP. The brick house, formerly standing at 47 Mill Street, was perhaps the most interesting landmark in Mount Holly to those of us who love to honor the memory of the saintly Quaker. John Woolman purchased the property from John Ogborn on the "4th day of 2d mo, 1747,³" and conducted a store in the rear portion of the old house until 1756 when he gave up keeping shop because he found that "Truth did not require me to engage in much cumbering affairs." There formerly was a small shop on the lot in which doubtless

he carried on his tailoring business. In his "Larger Account Book," now in possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, he refers "to the shop on mother's lot."

In 1753 he sold the property to his mother, Elizabeth Burr Woolman,⁴ who bequeathed it to her daughter Rachel Woolman in 1772. Rachel Woolman conveyed the property to Samuel Lewis in 1795 for 115 pounds.⁵ Lewis, the master carpenter of the County Court House, added the front part of the house with the very attractive doorway shortly after purchasing the property. The doorway somewhat resembled the entrance to the Court House.

As suggested by Amelia Mott Gummere in her valuable edition of John Woolman's Journal, this probably is the house in which the Journalist "tended shop and kept books" when he came to Mount Holly in 1740. Mrs. Gummere also suggested that John Ogborn, from whom John Woolman purchased the property in 1747, was his employer when he first settled in Mount Holly.

The "Little Meeting House," erected in 1763, stood back of the houses where the Acme Super Markets Store now stands—formerly numbers 45 and 47 Mill Street,⁶ seventy-seven feet from the street. John Woolman doubtless worshipped in the meeting house and, as suggested by Mrs. Gummere, may have taught school in it. The lot on which the meeting house stood was forty feet square and was reached by a lane from Mill Street, formerly known as "Meeting House Alley," which ran between the two houses above mentioned.

THREE TUNS TAVERN. Mill Street Hotel, located a few doors east of the Woolman property, opposite Pine Street, was the famous "Three Tuns Tavern" of colonial days and possibly is the oldest building in Mount Holly. The original tavern, which can be traced in the western end of the hotel, was erected in about 1723 when Edward Gaskill built the dam across the Rancocas and established a sawmill and later a gristmill. The building of the dam was the first step in the industrial development of the town and naturally a tavern would be needed in the neighborhood. It is difficult to realize the importance of the tavern of "ye olden tyme." Every country village had

at least one tavern and not infrequently they were located at important cross roads in the open country. The tavern keepers usually were respectable men and frequently were men of influence in their neighborhoods.

In all probability it was at the Three Tuns Tavern that John Woolman labored with the people as they gathered at the "Public House" to witness the performance of a sleight-of-hand man, as told in his Journal. "Then Setting down by the Door, I spake to the people. . . concerning this Shew . . . in the fear of the Lord, and Laboured to convince them that thus Assembling to see these Tricks . . . and bestowing their money to Support men who in that capacity were of no use in the world, was Contrary to the Nature of the Christian Religion." After sitting about an hour with them and "feeling my mind easie," he departed.

GIRARD HOUSE. The little frame house, now 211 Mill Street, is historically interesting for the reason that Stephen Girard, the founder of Girard College, lived in it and kept a store from August, 1777, to the fall of 1778. There is a tradition that Girard arrived in Mount Holly in 1777 with a pedlar's pack, having walked through the pines from the vicinity of Tuckerton but there is absolutely no historical basis to this romantic story. Stephen Girard arrived at Philadelphia in June, 1776, and set up a little store on Water Street. He was interested in the shipping business at that time but was compelled to abandon it during the early years of the Revolution on account of the excessive risk. At the approach of the British Army in the early fall of 1777 Girard moved to Mount Holly and opened a little store at 211 Mill Street.

Isaac Hazelhurst, a Philadelphia merchant, was associated with Girard in certain of his shipping adventures and they had become congenial friends. In December 1776 Hazelhurst had purchased several lots of land in the outskirts of Mount Holly, which included "Clover Hill," his beautiful estate at the corner of Garden Street and the Jacksonville Road.⁷ Girard purchased the house on Mill street with fully five acres of land from Isaac Hazelhurst in July, 1777, for 528 pounds, 19 shillings, 10 pence

Pennsylvania Currency.⁸ To this little house Girard brought his bride, the beautiful Mary Lum, to whom he was married in June, 1777. It proved to be an unfortunate marriage as Mary Girard developed mental trouble and spent many years of her life in the Pennsylvania Hospital, to which Girard bequeathed \$30,000.

On his arrival in Mount Holly Girard opened a store in his home where he sold tea, sugar, molasses, soap, candles and rum. Mrs. Charles M. Sharp, who inherited the property and made it her home until her death in 1940, told the writer that the store was in the basement and was reached by an outside stairway. The property had been in Mrs. Sharp's family since 1812 when her ancestor William Rogers, Jr., bought it from Samuel Rush.⁹

There are a number of stories as to why the Girards left Mount Holly, none of which have a basis of historical truth. One tradition is that he left town because of a lawsuit over his pet dog which was killed by "Bill Clark," a notorious and rather eccentric character. It seems that the dog had the bad habit of snapping at Clark as he passed the door and one day in a fit of anger Clark shot him. A lawsuit followed and when the jury brought in a verdict in favor of Clark, Girard was so incensed that he left town never to return nor did he have anything further to do with Mount Holly people. The dog story may be true but it is preposterous to assign it as the reason for the Girards leaving Mount Holly.

Girard did not sell his Mill Street property until 1789¹⁰ and the records show that he and Mrs. Girard frequently returned to Mount Holly. Girard contributed \$200 to Joseph Lancaster for his school in the old Academy building on Brainerd Street in 1810. It is known that three of his ships were hidden in the Rancocas at Mount Holly during the War of 1812, "moored stem to stern across the creek armed with men and cannon."

Tradition further says that Jersey boys are ineligible to enter Girard College. His will shows that New Jersey boys are not debarred but seldom have an opportunity to enroll, as orphans born in old Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, New York City and New Orleans should be given prefer-

ence in the order named.

Stephen Girard returned to Philadelphia after the British Army evacuated the city on June 18, 1778. It would be interesting to know where the Girards stayed when the British occupied Mount Holly on June 21st and 22nd, 1778.

WOOLMAN MEMORIAL. The attractive eighteenth century brick house at 99 Branch Street, now owned by the John Woolman Memorial Association, was erected by Jabez Woolston in 1783 as shown by the date stone over

W

the front entrance. The initials J E and the year in 1783

which it was built appear on the date stone. The initials stand for Jabez and Esther Woolston, his first wife. The lot on which the house stands was purchased from John Comfort, John Woolman's son-in-law, probably in 1783 but was not recorded until 1786.¹¹ Such delays were not unusual in the early records. To illustrate, Thomas Olive's survey for 500 acres on Mill Creek, west of Rancocas, recorded on April 25, 1682, definitely refers to his gristmill which was erected in 1679.

Jabez Woolston paid only 18 pounds "in gold and silver money" for the lot, containing 1 acre, 1 rood and 8 perches, which clearly indicate that there was no house on it at the time of purchase. He sold the property to Gideon Stratton on April 16, 1798,¹² for 190 pounds in gold and silver which shows that the house was built after the lot was purchased in 1783. The deed conveyed "a brick messuage, dwelling house and lot of land."

Amelia Mott Gummere, founder of the Memorial Association, believing that the house was built by John Woolman for his daughter Mary, who married John Comfort, of Fallsington, Pennsylvania, in 1771, purchased the property from John Grady on October 9, 1915, for \$1,800¹³ and one week later turned it over to the Memorial Association for the same amount. The latter deed traces the title to the sale of the lot by John Comfort to Jabez Woolston, recorded in 1786.

In 1908 the State Legislature passed a bill appropriat-

ing \$10,000 for purchasing the property and maintaining it as a Memorial to the great Quaker but withdrew the bill when it could not be proved that the house was built or ever owned by John Woolman. The writer has carefully examined John Woolman's Account Books, which may be consulted at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, in which are given the specifications "for a brick house" and "the cost of building a brick house" but in neither instance does it state or even infer that the house was built for his daughter Mary. Moreover, the specifications do not conform to the Memorial Building at 99 Branch Street in eight details.

The Board of Managers no longer claims that the house was built by John Woolman but has wisely decided to maintain it as a memorial to Mount Holly's most distinguished citizen. The house stands very near John Woolman's little farm which he purchased from Peter Andrews in 1748.¹⁴ The house and garden are very attractive and the spirit of the saintly Quaker seems to hover over the peaceful neighborhood. Elmon and Josephine Benton are now the host and hostess. They are earnest Friends and are deeply interested in John Woolman and desire to make the Memorial a Quaker center. All who are interested in John Woolman will receive a cordial and friendly welcome.

BURR MANSION. This fine old stone farmhouse, the ancestral home of the Burr family, is located on Burr's Road fully two miles north of Mount Holly. The house measures sixty feet in length and is pleasantly located on a knoll, commanding a beautiful view of the countryside. Burr's Road was surveyed in 1852, prior to which it was a lane leading to the Burr homestead. The central and eastern section of the house was erected by Henry Burr, the pioneer, in 1725 and the western by his son John

1732

in 1732. The date stone near the eaves is marked, BURR,

J x K

the initials standing for John and Keziah. John Burr married Keziah Wright in 1712.

The outstanding feature of the mansion is a huge fire-

place in the western room which measures ten feet, four inches in width. It is the largest fireplace in the county and one of the largest in the state. Most unfortunately the house was burned on September 28, 1928; the roof and all of the interior woodwork being destroyed. It is now the residence of Mrs. Norman W. Harker, who and her late husband have restored the old house under the supervision of Brognard Okie, who was the outstanding colonial architect of Philadelphia until his recent death. The Harkers were greatly interested in the history of the house and have taken great pride in preserving its colonial features.¹⁵

HUTCHINSON-BURR HOUSE. This interesting brick farmhouse on the South Pemberton Road, about one mile east of Route 39, was erected by Hudson and Mary Brown Burr in 1785. Their initials and the year of construction are built in the north gable in black header bricks, ar-

B

ranged as follows: H M. The house measures 58 by 1785

42 feet and apparently was made at one time, which is rather unusual in 18th century houses. The double row of extension bricks on the second floor level suggests that the house was erected at one time. When colonial houses were built in sections they seldom had one roof level.

From an architectural standpoint it is one of the most interesting old farmhouses in the county on account of the exceptional beauty of the paneling. The cedar panels and wainscoting in the hall and parlor are especially interesting. One panel over the mantel in the parlor, when I visited the house, measured 28 inches in width. The hall runs lengthwise of the house and the stairway is paneled to the third floor. There is a fireplace in almost every room; the one in the kitchen measuring 8 feet in width. In one fireplace there is a fireback made at the Speedwell Furnace. At least one corner cupboard was made with butterfly shelves, which are quite rare. The HL hinges also suggest 18th century construction.

The farm was purchased by Isaac H. Hutchinson in 1903, who in 1921 conveyed one-half interest to his broth-

er John H. Hutchinson for "one dollar and brotherly affection." In 1939 the Hutchinson Brothers sold the farm to George Emery, of Columbus. Hudson Burr, the builder of the house, was the son of Joseph Burr and great-grandson of Henry Burr, the pioneer. The farmhouse sits well back from the road and is reached by a long lane from the South Pemberton Road.

THE ETRIS HOUSE. This very attractive house, colonial in appearance, is located at 111 Garden Street and is now the home of the Etris sisters. The front of the house on Garden Street was built by Samuel Carr in 1805. On April 11 of that year Samuel Risdon sold 1 acre and 1 rood on the northern side of Garden Street to Samuel Carr for \$450. The price paid would indicate that there was a very small house on the lot at the time of sale.

In the writer's judgment the old kitchen at the rear of the house stood on the lot at the time of sale in 1805. It was undoubtedly erected in the 18th century. Tradition says that the old house was moved to its present position when Garden Street was surveyed in 1775. The Etris sisters have many pieces of antique furniture and a pewter plate made in London in 1696.

THE CURTIS HOUSE. A recently discovered log house stands at 20 Water Street. It was erected early in the 18th century and is perhaps the oldest dwelling house in Mount Holly. It stands well back from Water Street and probably originally faced to the south, as the street or road ran nearer the Rancocas in the early days. It was originally a one-story log house and a second story was added and the house extended westward by a later owner. The log house measures 25 feet long and 20 feet deep.

William W. Aikin, owner of the Marble Works next to the old house, recently bought the property and is renovating the house and plans to live in it. Mr. Aikin is placing the chimney at the eastern end on the outside and when the clapboards were removed the old log house was disclosed. As far as I can learn neither Mr. Aikin or any other person did not know that the house was originally built of logs. The property has been in the hands of the

Curtis family for at least three generations. The first Curtis to own it was named Thomas, who purchased the property from Aquilla Shinn in 1802.¹⁶

Aquilla Shinn was the son of Thomas, whose will is dated October 10, 1751, and proved on March 10, 1753. In his will he bequeathed the house "in which I now dwell" to his son Aquilla when he became of age. The will was witnessed by his son-in-law Henry Paxson and "his friend" John Woolman. There is no way of proving that Thomas Shinn lived in the old log house on Water Street but in all probability he did. The dates check with the sale of the old house to Thomas Curtis by Aquilla Shinn in 1802.

Thomas Shinn was a prominent Friend and Thomas Chalkley stated in his Journal in 1737:

"From Burlington I went to Mount-holly, had a large meeting at the Meeting House and another in the evening at Mount-holly town at the house of Thomas Shinn."

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 16

¹ Agricultural Monographs, by Fenimore W. Woolman. White Pine Series of Agricultural Monographs.

² Secretary of State's Office, Trenton. Liber T, 179.

³ Woolman's Journal, Rancocas Edition, 31. This deed is not recorded in Trenton but is recited in the deed of March 3, 1795. Rachel Woolman to Samuel Lewis. Book M, 440.

⁴ Woolman's Journal, Rancocas Edition, 33.

⁵ County Clerk's Office, Book M, 440.

⁶ The two houses were taken down in the spring of 1947 and the Acme Super Markets' Store now stands on the lots. The Woolman House stood on the eastern lot.

⁷ These deeds are recorded in the County Clerk's Office, Book B, pages 18 and 87. The first deed refers to the Mansion House. Clover Hill was recently sold by Richard Ashurst, of Philadelphia, to a Real Estate Development Company.

⁸ The deed was not recorded. Evidence was furnished by Wilfred B. Wolcott, Jr., showing that Girard purchased the property from Hazelhurst in July, 1777. Mr. Wolcott is the Director of the High School Division at Girard College and is an authority on the life of Girard in Mount Holly.

⁹ County Clerk's Office, Book K, 560.

¹⁰ Secretary of State's Office, Liber A-P, 533.

¹¹ County Clerk's Office, Book V, 155.

¹² Ibid, 157.

¹³ Ibid, Book 519, p. 296.

¹⁴ This deed was not recorded but it is recited in the deed of January 25, 1776, John Comfort to John Shields, of Philadelphia. Trenton, Liber A-1, p. 293.

¹⁵ For additional data about the farm see Chapter 25 under the heading BURR.

¹⁶ The deed from Aquilla Shinn to Thomas Curtis was never recorded. However, it is recited in a later deed and Richard B. Eckman, an attorney of Mount Holly, kindly called the writer's attention to the deed.

Chapter 17

HERE AND THERE IN OLD MOUNT HOLLY

LET us begin our historical ramble around Mount Holly at the Plaza on Mill Street at the foot of Main. The Fountain, which formerly stood on the Plaza directly opposite the Union National Bank, a landmark which many of my readers will recall, marked the location of the Market House and Town Hall. According to Dr. Zachariah Read in his "Annals of Mount Holly" the Market House, erected in 1798, was taken down in about 1850.

It was a rectangular two-story brick building with arched roof; the first floor being used as a market and the second as a town hall. An open passage extended through the entire length of the building on the ground floor with a cross passage at the center. The market stalls, four on each side of the building, were open on the street. The Town Hall was reached by an outside stairway, under which the hand-power fire engine was kept.

The whipping post and stocks, which were abolished by an Act of the State Legislature in 1837, stood at the eastern end of the market house. A maypole, around which the children danced and sang on Mayday, was located near the whipping post. Prior to 1747, when the first market house and town hall were erected, the town meetings were held in the Quaker Meeting House on Wood Lane or in private houses. The Northampton Township records show that they were occasionally held in the gristmill.

Mill Street and the section of the town lying to the south, bounded by Pine, Church and White Streets, is undoubtedly the oldest part of Mount Holly. Church Street was first called White or Whitehall Street in honor of Josiah White but changed to Church in 1786 when the second Episcopal Church was erected.¹ The present White Street, which starts at the Plaza and runs in a southerly direction, was originally called Race Street. Its name was changed as many residents desired to perpe-

tuate the name **White** in the community. Josiah White was one of the founders of Mount Holly as an industrial center.

Washington Street was originally called the Philadelphia Road and later Reynolds Street in honor of Patrick Reynolds who is said to have been the son of Sir Patrick Reynolds, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland. His handsome residence was located on the south side of Washington Street, west of the bridge. Patrick Reynolds was a prominent and public spirited citizen and it is to be regretted that the name honoring his memory was not retained. The old Philadelphia Road prior to 1794, when the present more direct road to Moorestown and Camden was surveyed, bore to the south in the neighborhood of Madison Avenue and crossed the South Branch about two hundred feet above the railroad bridge at Hainesport.

In colonial times Washington Street was a fashionable highway and some of the finest homes in the town were located on it. The Reynolds home, west of the bridge over the Rancocas, afterwards the residence of John Bispham and his son Charles, was one of the most attractive in Mount Holly. The house, a long frame building with a covered porch extending its entire length, was surrounded by a beautiful garden which extended to the creek.

Pleasant Bank, at one time the residence of the father of Major Richard Cox, was located on the northern side of Washington Street, east of King, and extended northward to the Rancocas. It should be remembered that the creek follows a very circuitous course as it passes through Mount Holly. The property afterwards was purchased by William Brown, of Philadelphia, who improved the house and beautified the grounds. There was a private landing on the Rancocas which was reached by a lane from Washington Street.

There are a number of houses now standing in the old section of the town that greeted General Clinton on that hot and stormy day in June, 1778, when the British Army entered Mount Holly. The two adjoining houses on the western side of White Street, opposite Church, are two

of the oldest dwellings in the town. The southern section, now numbered 20, was erected in 1744 by Thomas Budd, son of William Budd, according to Dr. Read's Annals. The northern part was built by Stacy Budd later in the eighteenth century. The attractive brick house north of these houses was erected by Michael Earnest prior to 1776.

Let us return to the Plaza and stroll out Mill and Branch Streets. Richard Cox Shreve, grandson of Major Richard Cox, wrote a most interesting paper in about 1890 entitled "Recollections of Mount Holly," from which I will freely quote as it throws an interesting light on the customs of the early years of the nineteenth century.²

"One of my earliest recollections is of the illumination in Mount Holly in the winter of 1815 in celebration of the Treaty of Peace between Great Britain and the United States after the war of 1812. I was seven years old at the time. My father, Charles Shreve, lived on Mill street in the house adjoining the one where I now live. My grandfather, Major Richard Cox, for whom I was named, lived in the house next to the Farmers Bank. He had been an officer in the Revolutionary army. I remember riding about the streets of the town in a sleigh and seeing my grandfather's house brightly illuminated for the celebration. Pieces of boards with holes bored through them had been placed across the windows, and in the holes were thrust tallow dips. Major Cox was a middle sized man, rather stout and wore knee breeches. John Watson, the author of 'Watson's Annals of Philadelphia,' said to me, one day, at my house, that Major Cox was 'the man of the town.' . . .

"Laborers were getting 50 cents a day 'and found.' In harvest time farmers paid \$1.00 a day. It was usual to see a dozen men swinging their sythes or sickles in unison across a hay or grain field. The farmers would take a jug of whiskey to the field; the hands would stop whetting their sythes and each would drink from the jug in turn. The hands would not work without liquor. Some of the well-to-do people about Wrightstown were fond of horses and had some good stock. John Stockton made a half mile track. Murat, the exile at Bordentown, used to come see the races and make bets. He was a wild young man, hail-fellow-well-met to everybody. I remember seeing Joseph Bonaparte drive through Wrightstown in a heavy carriage drawn by

two horses.³

"When I came to Mount Holly in 1830, William Budd was running two and four horse stages to Philadelphia, and in the summer time to the sea-shore. The brick market-house, having eight stalls, stood where the fountain now is, its ends standing east and west. When I was a boy there was a whipping-post standing at the eastern end of the market-house. The post was a little wider one way than the other, and the culprits arms were tied around it and he was lashed on the bare back, though I have never seen it done. Here at the end of the market place when I was a child, before I had gone to Westtown school, a May-pole was erected every year, usually a tall pine about 40 feet high with a green top. The little boys and girls of the town dressed in their best, would join hands and dance around the May-pole. Here at the market place also, when the stage from Philadelphia arrived with the mail the people would gather around, and the stage-driver would call out the names of persons for whom he had newspapers. Two persons then often joined in taking one paper—one of the subscribers would read it in the evening and pass it over to his neighbor on the next morning."

The grandfather clock makers of Mount Holly should be mentioned. Daniel Fling's watch and clock shop was located on Mill Street near the Union National Bank. The Misses Moffett, of Union Street, possess a tall clock made by him. I have also located grandfather clocks made in Mount Holly by William Hudson, Edward Hudson, Wood and Hudson, Joseph Budd, Richard Dickinson, Hugh Hollinshead, David Shoemaker, G. W. Coppuck and William H. Mason. The only clock that I have ever seen made by Mason is owned by Mrs. Miriam M. Harker, of Mount Holly. The shops of these clockmakers generally were located near the Plaza.

William and Edward Hudson possibly were father and son. Miss M. W. Johnson, of Mount Holly, has a very attractive clock made by Edward Hudson and Mrs. George L. Hughes, of Moorestown, an exceptionally beautiful tall clock made by William Hudson. The case of the Hughes clock is made of walnut with three candle flames on the hood. According to Dr. Read's Annals, Peter Hill, the negro clockmaker, of Burlington, also had a shop in Mount Holly. Miss Mary Deacon, of Mount



Burr Mansion, Burr's Road, near Mount Holly, 1725. Courtesy of Mrs. Miriam M. Harker. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.



Hudson Burr House, South Pemberton Road, 1785. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

Holly, has a beautiful grandfather clock, maker unknown, that is marked "Cleaned by Peter Hill in 1803." The case is mahogany inlaid with boxwood.

On the eastern side of Paxson Street, which is little more than an alley running north from Mill Street, east of Main Street, Henry Paxson's Tannery was located on Buttonwood Run. Tanneries were established in most towns and villages at a very early date, as well-tanned leather was in great demand for making footwear, harness and saddles, all of which were made by hand in the early days. Formerly all leather was bark tanned and the presence of many oak and hemlock trees in the forests made the industry quite profitable. Benjamin Dugdale had a large tannery on the south side of Washington Street and doubtless there were others in the town.

Passing John Woolman's shop, Three Tuns Tavern and the Girard House on Mill Street, which were referred to in the previous chapter, we come to John Woolman's little farm on the Springfield Road, now Branch Street. Benjamin A. Sleeper, Surveyor General of the West Jersey Proprietors, informed the writer that Dr. Louis Kaser's House on Woolman Lake, Branch Street, stands on the Woolman farm. I am of the opinion that the oldest part of Dr. Kaser's house, the southeast corner, was the home of John Woolman but cannot offer any documentary evidence to prove it. Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of New Jersey," (1844) contains a drawing of the Woolman house showing that it stood on a knoll and stated that it was located on the Springfield Road "near Mount Holly."

It was an unpretentious house and stood on a small farm largely devoted to the cultivation of fruit trees. John Woolman purchased the land from Peter Andrews on February 3, 1748, and doubtless erected the house shortly afterwards as he was married to Sarah Ellis in the following year. The deed for the farm never was recorded but it is recited in the deed recording the sale by John Comfort, Woolman's son-in-law, who inherited the farm, to John Shields, of Philadelphia, for a little more than an acre of land. Fortunately the deed from Com-

fort to Shields is recorded in Trenton and is dated January 26, 1776.⁴

There appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette of September 25, 1776, the following advertisement:

JOHN SHIELDS

has opened a store at the upper end of Mt. Holly (in the house where the late John Woolman lived) where he proposes to keep a neat assortment of Dry and Wet Goods suitable to that Part of the Country, whose custom he hopes to obtain by the moderation of his prices.

The southeast section of the Kaser house is very old and could easily have been built in 1748 or 1749. Dr. and Mrs. Kaser have taken great pride in retaining the colonial features of the old house. The arrangement of the doors and windows, Dr. Kaser pointed out to the writer, closely resemble the drawing of the Woolman house in Barber and Howe's Historical Collections, as well as a sepia drawing in Mrs. Gummere's Rancocas Edition of Woolman's Journal. The view from the side street shows a similarity.

There are several locations in and near Mount Holly that always have intrigued the writer: Top E Toy, Turpentine, San Domingo and Timbuctoo or Bucto as the location is generally called. There are a number of traditions as to how Top E Toy Hill received its unique name. A former resident of Mount Holly suggested that a Frenchman named Etoise owned the hill in the early days and that the expression the "Top of Etoise Hill" could easily have been corrupted into the Top E Toy Hill. Henry C. Shinn, of Mount Holly, who is greatly interested in local history, in a letter written to the writer in 1936, stated that when he was a child he frequently heard his father say that an old Indian named Toy formerly lived on the hill in a hut and that the hill became known as "Toy Hill."

Toy, however, is a Swedish name and we know that one or two families of that name formerly lived in Mount

Holly. Daniel Toy was one of the incorporators of St. Andrews Church in 1765. In the following century Dr. Read mentions the name in his Annals. It is more than likely that a family named Toy once owned the hill-hence the name Top E Toy. Isaac Toy, a Swede, settled near Palmyra in 1696.

The origin of the name Turpentine, a small settlement on the road leading to Jobstown, northeast of Mount Holly, apparently is unknown. The community is known as Unionville today. The San Domingo tract, which extends from Pine Street to Madison Avenue south of the Rancocas, probably was named for early settlers who fled from San Domingo after the mutiny of slaves in the West Indies in 1791 and settled in that neighborhood.

Timbuctoo or Bucto is a small negro settlement on the road leading to Rancocas, just outside of Mount Holly. The name probably was suggested by the village of Timbuctoo in Africa, the original home of the negro race.

Pine Street is one of the oldest streets in Mount Holly. There are a number of interesting places or sites on it, the most interesting of which is "Iron Works Hill," on which the first Episcopal Church was located. Here also Col. Griffin was stationed and fought an artillery duel with the British on the Mount in December, 1776. Josiah White's Fulling Mill stood back of the Relief Fire Company's House, nearly opposite Church Street. The Relief Fire Company, established in 1752 under the name "Britannia Fire Company," also has an interesting history which is given in Chapter 19.

Near the site of the fulling mill the Mount Holly terminus of the famous Bicycle Railroad to Smithville was located. The railroad was the invention of William H. Hotchkiss, a Connecticut Yankee, and probably was the only one of its kind in the United States. It was built in 1892 for the purpose of providing the workmen of the Smithville factory, living in Mount Holly, cheap transportation. The fare each way was ten cents. The railroad passed above the roads and it is said to have crossed the winding Rancocas eight or ten times. It did not pay financially and was abandoned in a few years.

During the 19th century John Kempton operated a pottery in Mount Holly, which was located on Paper Mill Street, now Wall Street. This little, almost forgotten street runs east from Pine, north of the Rancocas. A deed, dated October 17, 1836, reads:⁵

"John Kempton to John C. Milbine for two lots of land on Pine Street.

Lot No. 1, 27 perches of land.

Lot No. 2, 15 perches of land on an alley or lane leading to the Paper Mill." One course in the description of lot No. 2 reads: "To the lower end of Kempton's Kiln House."

In one place Dr. Read in his Annals refers to the pottery as the "Pot House" but later he calls it the "Pottery." Dr. Read also refers to a "Chalybeate Spring that oozes from the bank, known as the Bath." The people, old as well as young, gathered at the Spring on summer evenings and partook of the mineral water. The writer does not know where the Spring was located, other than it was on Pine Street south of the Rancocas. West of Pine Street and south of the Hill stands an attractive brick house which was built by William Richards in about 1818. It is located on the San Domingo Tract.

At the corner of Pine Street and South Pemberton Road stands a large brick house which was erected by Edward T. Dobbins early in the 19th century. It is now the "Children's Home of Burlington County," the only home for underprivileged children, mentally sound, in the county. The home was established in 1863 in a house on Garden Street. Mrs. Nelson D. W. Pumyea is now the President of the Association managing the Home, which is doing splendid work in the county.

Let us again return to the Plaza at the foot of Main Street, probably the center of the business activities of Mount Holly. Near this corner the early taverns were generally located.⁶ The pioneer tavern was the scene of great activity in stage coach days before the opening of the railroad to Camden in 1867. Mine host, the inn-keeper, was a man of importance in the community and the stage driver something of a hero to the lads of the town, as it required strong hands and steady nerves to

pilot the stage over the rough roads of the early days. The arrival of the stage from Cooper's Ferry (Camden) with the precious mail from Philadelphia and the world beyond was the event of the day. It is said that young men frequently walked to Long Bridge (now Hainesport) to meet the stage so that they would be the first to hear the news from the driver.

An advertisement in the Pennsylvania Gazette, of September 13, 1759,⁷ stated that a "Stage waggon was erected from Daniel Cooper's Ferry to Mountholly, thence through Monmouth County to Middletown." Daniel Jones, proprietor of "Three Tuns Tavern" on Mill Street, and Zachariah Rossell of the "Black Horse" on Main Street were interested in this enterprise, which I believe was the first stage line through Mount Holly. This stage travelled over the old Springfield Road, which followed the general course of Branch Street and the Monmouth Road through Jobstown to Freehold. The Monmouth Road was surveyed in 1796⁸ "From the Court House in the County of Monmouth to Mt. Holly in the County of Burlington nearly as straight as the nature of the ground and other reasonable circumstances will admit." Branch Street was laid out in 1799⁹ and led "to the intersection of the New Road from Mount Holly to Monmouth Court House," now Freehold.

Gordon's Gazetteer of New Jersey (1834) states that in 1830 there were two stages twice daily from Mount Holly to Burlington, one to Camden, one to Trenton, one to Vincentown, one to New Egypt and two to Manahawkin tri-weekly. Gordon further states that there were in 1830 about 230 dwellings in Mount Holly, seven stores, four day schools and one boarding school for young ladies.

The four leading taverns in Mount Holly prior to the Revolution were the Three Tuns, about which I have already written, the Black Horse, the Cross Keys and Washington Tavern at the corner of High and Water Streets. The Black Horse Tavern was located near the site of the Arcade Apartments and stood well back from Main Street, with gable end to the street. This would

suggest that the tavern faced the old Philadelphia Road, now Washington Street. This would have been the logical location as the leading highway through the town was the Philadelphia Road.

It is not certain when the Black Horse Tavern was erected or by whom but it was long before the Revolutionary War. King George III in full regimentals and mounted on a black horse was painted on the tavern sign. Tradition says that the king was replaced by a painting of General Washington shortly after the opening of the Revolution. The people living in Burlington County were mostly loyal to the American cause.¹⁰ The Black Horse was kept by Zachariah Rossell, known to his friends as "Old Zach," prior to the Revolutionary War. He was a leading citizen of Mount Holly in his day as well as a quaint character. Tradition, doubtless based on Dr. Read's Annals, says that he became so exasperated by some of his patrons, who habitually stood in front of the fireplace, that he wrote the following doggerel and placed it above the mantel where all could read it:

"All ye who stand before the fire,
Pray sit ye down; tis my desire
That other folks as well as you,
Should see the fire and feel it too."

The Cross Keys Tavern was located on the western side of Main Street, formerly High Street, above the Black Horse. The sign consisted of Two Large Keys, crossed. Charles S. Boyer stated that it was established by Thomas Clark in or before 1731. The Hatkinson Tavern stood on the site of the Arcade Apartments, formerly the Arcade Hotel, at the lower end of Main Street, near Washington and according to Mr. Boyer it was built in 1757. It was known as the State Arms at a later date, having on its sign the Coat of Arms and Motto of the State. Governor William Livingston, the first governor of the State of New Jersey, is said to have lived here in 1777 when on his parole of honor.

Washington Tavern was established in 1749; John Burr, Jr., being the first Innkeeper. It stood on the site of the present Washington Hotel at the northwest corner

of High and Water Streets. The tavern must have been well out of town on the Burlington Road when built. Water Street, as it now runs, apparently was not laid out until the 19th century, as Dr. Zachariah Read refers to it as the "New Road," in his Annals, written in 1859. The old road or street ran south of the present Water Street.

Strolling up Main and High Street¹¹ we soon pass the Friends Meeting House, the beautiful Court House, the County Prison, the old brick house at 204 High Street, the residence of Mrs. R. O. Paul, erected by her ancestor Joseph Reed in 1780, the house formerly "Dunn's famous Chinese Cottage" and come to the attractive home and beautiful gardens of the late Edward B. Levis opposite the mount. Mr. Levis stipulated in his will that the gardens should be open to the public at certain hours and under certain conditions. Many people during the summer and early days of the fall take advantage of Mr. Levis' thoughtful kindness and visit the gardens which are not only elaborate but very beautiful.

The famous Bartram Oak, said to be the only specimen in New Jersey, stands in a bit of woodland on the Levis estate. It is estimated to be between 175 and 225 years old and officially measured in 1939 15.1 feet in circumference breast high.¹² The property was sold to J. Sterling Davis in 1947, and the gardens are still open to the public.

Let us cross the street to the mount for which Mount Holly was named. The view from the summit through the trees when they are not in leaf is especially attractive. In order to ascertain its exact height above sea level, which is often disputed, I wrote to the Geological Survey, Department of Interior, Washington, D. C., a few years ago and received a prompt reply from which I quote:

"Geodetic Station on top of the mount.....	185 feet
Doorsill at entrance to Court House	43 feet
Doorsill at (Union) National Bank	17 feet
Bench mark at Railroad Bridge	15 feet"

The mount is the fourth highest in the county, being exceeded by a mount near Arneystown, 232 feet, Arney's Mount, 230 feet, and Apple Pie Hill, 208 feet. The at-

tractive mount at Mount Laurel is 173 feet above sea level.

The Mount Holly Fair Grounds, just beyond the mount on the Burlington Road will be remembered by the older generation. The Mount Holly Fair was one of the most successful in this part of the country. The Burlington County Agricultural Society was organized at a citizens' meeting held in the Court House on January 16, 1847.¹³ Its object was "The Advancement of Agriculture, Horticulture and Manufactures." The society was incorporated in 1852 and twenty-four acres were purchased on the road to Burlington. Four hundred persons subscribed to the stock.

The first fair was held on the Court House grounds on October 28, 1847. The Burlington County Fair Association, under whose management the fair was afterwards conducted, was incorporated on March 17, 1870. The Mount Holly Fair was at one time the big event in New Jersey. Farmers and others gathered from far and near to see the Agricultural Exhibits and incidentally the horse races. To a certain farmer boy near Trenton the racetrack was the lodestone. The Fair was discontinued in about 1926 and the Fair Grounds sold to John Richardson of Mount Holly in 1945.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 17

¹ The year 1786 appeared on the western end of the foundry building when standing a few years ago. When the foundry was established the end walls of the old church were retained.

² Mount Holly Herald, Special Edition, 1893.

³ The author of the paper lived in Wrightstown when a young man.

⁴ Secretary of State's Office. Liber A-1, p. 293.

⁵ County Clerk's Office. Book N-3, p. 464.

⁶ I am indebted to the late Charles S. Boyer, of Moorestown, for much of my data concerning the early taverns of Mount Holly. See "Indian Trails and Early Paths," page 79.

⁷ This newspaper may be consulted at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

⁸ County Clerk's Office. Road Book A, 234.

⁹ Ibid. Road Book B, 28.

¹⁰ A petition signed by 32 Freeholders of Burlington County, about half of whom were Quakers, and apparently regarded as Tories, is

in the State Library at Trenton. The petition, signed in November, 1775, was a protest against this country breaking ties with Great Britain. This, however, does not necessarily indicate that the signers were Tories. As late as July, 1775, after the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought, Washington and Jefferson stated that the object of the war was not the Independence of the Colonies. (Fiske, Vol. X, 64-65.) The petition was discovered by N. R. Ewan, of Moorestown, and kindly copied for the writer.

¹¹ It is now Main Street between Mill and Garden Streets and High Street north of Garden. Originally it was called High Street all the way to the mount. It is so marked on the 1849 Map in the County Clerk's Office. Witness the street sign on the Levis building at the corner of Main and Murrell Streets.

¹² Noteworthy Trees of New Jersey, 45.

¹³ The Development of Agriculture in New Jersey, by Carl R. Woodward. Page 183.

Chapter 18

REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

ALTHOUGH no important battles were fought on Burlington County soil during the Revolutionary War, the militia aided by volunteers rendered invaluable service to the American cause in December, 1776, and again in June, 1778. Mount Holly, then a thriving settlement of perhaps two hundred homes, was the center of military activities on both occasions. Though it may not be literally true, an interesting and logical argument could be made showing that the Battle of Trenton actually was won in Mount Holly.

The Hessian commander, Count von Donop, with about 2000 highly trained soldiers entered Bordentown on December 14, 1776,¹ expecting to make that village his headquarters for the winter. His dream of a comfortable winter, however, was soon shattered as his scouts reported "rebel activities" in the neighborhood of Mount Holly. Von Donop promptly stationed the crack 42nd Regiment of Scottish Highlanders under Colonel Sterling and von Block's Hessian Battalion at Black Horse, now Columbus. A day or two later von Linsingen's Battalion was stationed at Mansfield Square, strategically located at the intersection of the Bordentown Road and the old York Road leading to Crosswicks, Allentown and Freehold, then known as Monmouth Court House.

General Putnam, who was in command of the American Army in Philadelphia, stationed Colonel Griffin with about 600 men at Haddonfield with instructions to watch von Donop's movements and if possible lure him from Bordentown, so that he could not support Colonel Rall at the impending Battle of Trenton. Joseph Galloway, a prominent Tory, definitely admitted in his writings that Griffin was sent to New Jersey for that special purpose.² Colonel Griffin immediately sent out scouting parties to watch and annoy the enemy as much as possible but to avoid an open battle with von Donop's superior force.

John Hunt, a Quaker farmer and minister, living near Moorestown, wrote in his diary on 12th mo, 19, 1776: "The soldiers have taken our meeting house to lodge, it was so thronged that we could not hold our meeting so it was held in Joshua Bispham's house and was of service to some."³ Doubtless the soldiers referred to were the Americans under Colonel Griffin, as the Colonel stationed his men on Iron Works Hill in Mount Holly on the 20th.

In the "Reports of the British Spies," published in General Stryker's "Battles of Trenton and Princeton," I find this interesting record under the caption "Intelligence by Mr. Haines, a Burlington County Loyalist:"⁴

"Barzilla Haines sent out to procure intelligence on the 21st of December, 1776, arrived at Mount Holly in the night and lodged in the rebel camp there. He was informed they had only two field pieces which he thinks were three pounders as he perceived them at the church."

He reported that they were commanded by Colonel Griffin and that their number was "not above eight hundred men, half of whom were boys and all of them militia with the exception of a few from Pennsylvania." The church referred to was the Episcopal Church, erected in 1742. It would be interesting to know whether Barzilla Haines was an assumed name or whether he was a member of the Haines family. A number of the Quakers were Loyalists but if a member acted as a spy he would have been disowned by the meeting. I find no record of his disownment nor is there a Barzilla Haines mentioned in the Haines Genealogy.

Let us leave Colonel Griffin on Iron Works Hill digging entrenchments and otherwise preparing for an expected attack by the enemy and return to von Donop at Bordentown. On December 16 von Donop sent a dispatch to General Leslie at Princeton stating that General Putnam was stationed "between Hoppins (Hopkins) and Cooper's Creeks with three thousand men."⁵ 'Hoppins Creek' undoubtedly was Newton Creek. Von Donop immediately sent a detachment of one hundred men to Mount Holly to ascertain the truth of the report and to reconnoiter.

The patrol returned before the dispatch was sent to

General Leslie and the following significant postscript was added: "The above patrol has just returned not having seen anything of the enemy. Near the bridge between Mount Holly and Moorestown they found a quantity of cannon balls, iron etc., which they threw into the water. According to the opinion of the inhabitants General Putnam must be at Cooper's Creek with four thousand men."

Von Donop soon realized that he had been deceived as to the strength of the American forces and wrote to General Grant, his superior officer then stationed at New Brunswick, acknowledging that they numbered "only about five hundred men." On the 19th von Donop, Sterling and von Block,⁶ with a large patrol advanced to Mount Holly seeking military information but it is evident that they did not hear anything alarming, as von Donop returned to Bordentown on the following day. Sterling and von Block returned to their posts at Black Horse.

On arriving at his post at Bordentown von Donop wrote to General Grant stating that "he had intended to post a battalion at Mount Holly but had changed his mind not finding it proper to do so for the reason that dense woods are adjacent and there is high ground on the side of Moorestown and Haddonfield." The record clearly shows that Griffin entered Mount Holly and camped on Iron Works Hill on Pine Street shortly after von Donop's patrol returned to their posts.

Late in the afternoon of Saturday, the 21st, von Donop received a dispatch from von Block reporting that the "enemy" had been seen in Mount Holly on that day. Von Donop left Bordentown at four o'clock in the morning on Sunday, the 22nd, and on arriving at Black Horse was informed that the "rebels" had left a picket at the meeting house on the north side of Mount Holly. Again von Donop failed to grasp the significance of Griffin's movements and returned to Bordentown shortly after the noon hour. He scarcely had reached his headquarters when he heard the alarm sounded by a three-pounder at Sun Tavern in Black Horse and a little later the signal gun fired by von Lingsingen at Mansfield Square.⁷ Von Donop im-

mediately dashed back to Black Horse thus completing his third ride from village to village on that memorable Sabbath. It must have proved a day of intense excitement to the peaceful Quaker farmers of Mansfield Township.

On arriving at Black Horse von Donop found the troops under arms and was informed that the "rebels," four or five hundred in number, had attacked their picket at "Rancocas Bridge" and had driven away a sergeant and twelve men of the 42nd Regiment stationed in a house near the bridge. Two of their men were killed or badly wounded. Von Donop evidently thought that the Assisunk Creek was the Rancocas and consequently called the bridge "Rancocas Bridge." It was located on the road leading to Columbus not far from the "Copany Meeting House" east of Jacksonville. The bridge is known as "Petticoat Bridge." According to tradition it was so named because the patriotic women of the neighborhood destroyed the bridge at the approach of the British troops.

Von Donop spent the night of the 22nd at the tavern in Black Horse and left for Mount Holly early on the 23rd with Sterling's 42nd Regiment and Block's and Linsingen's Hessian Battalions.⁸ "On nearing the Church on the road to the village of Mount Holly," (The Quaker Meeting House on Wood Lane) as stated in a dispatch to General Grant, "he saw a detachment of American Militia and directed a few shots to be fired at them from the three-pounders." Three of the rebels were killed or wounded but no British. The militia retired in the direction of Moorestown." Von Donop with the 42nd Regiment and von Block's Hessians remained in Mount Holly until after the Battle of Trenton was fought on December 26; Linsingen's Battalion being sent back to Mansfield Square.

It is evident, however, that von Donop did not tell the whole story about the military activities of those two eventful days, December 22nd and 23rd. Let us quote from the Journal of Margaret Hill Morris, of Burlington, which gives such a vivid picture of life in Burlington

County during "The days that tried men's souls." On December 22nd, the day that the alarm guns were fired at Black Horse and Mansfield Square, she wrote: "The intelligence brought in this evening is seriously affecting a party of our men, about two hundred marched out of Mount Holly and meeting a party of Hessians near a place called **Petticoat Bridge** an engagement ensued—the Hessians retreating rather than advancing—a heavy firing of musketry and small cannon heard. We are informed that twenty-one of our men were killed in the engagement and that they returned at night to their headquarters at Mount Holly, the Hessians to theirs at Black Horse."

On December 23rd, the day that von Donop entered Mount Holly, Mrs. Morris wrote in her Journal: "The troops at Mount Holly went out again today and engaged the Hessians near the same place where they met yesterday; it is reported we lost ten men and that our troops are totally routed and the Hessians in possession of Mount Holly." In a later entry she stated that the reports of twenty-one and ten killed "is not to be depended upon as the Hessians say that our men ran so fast they had no opportunity of killing any of them." It should not be forgotten that Mrs. Morris is said to have been a Tory.

An interesting account of the skirmishes at **Petticoat Bridge**, published in The Pennsylvania Evening Post on December 24, 1776, reads:

"We hear on good authority that on Sunday last between Slabtown and Black Horse in the Jerseys, a party of our army, under command of Colonel Griffin, had a skirmish with the Hessians and that the enemy were forced to retreat with precipitation having some killed and leaving behind them many knapsacks and other necessities, among which was a hat shot through the crown. But the next morning the enemy advancing with considerable reinforcements, supposed to be about two thousand men with seven or eight fieldpieces, our little army was obliged to retreat (which they performed with great regularity) to prevent their being outflanked by superior numbers and in the evening they had another skirmish at Mount Holly in which an intelligent per-

son informs had several killed and wounded. In both skirmishes our people had only two people killed and seven or eight wounded."

This account is reasonably accurate. The first two skirmishes were fought near the "Copany Meeting House" which was used as a hospital at the time. Strange to say the meeting houses of the peaceful Quakers are, in many places, the only landmarks of the Revolutionary War now standing. This is notably true at Mount Laurel, Mount Holly, Jacksonville and Crosswicks. The Friends' Meeting House in Bordentown was standing at the time but the writer is not certain that it was in any way associated with the Revolution. The meeting house at Crosswicks has an American cannon ball embedded in the north wall that was fired during the skirmish on June 23, 1778.

On arriving at Mount Holly on the afternoon of December 23rd, 1776, Colonel Griffin made a stand on Iron Works Hill; von Donop having mounted several pieces of artillery on the mount north of the village. An artillery duel was fought which the late Judge Slaughter described as the "Battle of Iron Works Hill" in an interesting article published in a county paper in 1926. Judging by the number of grapeshot and cannon balls that have been found in the vicinity of the hill it must have been a spirited engagement. According to Dr. Read's Annals a cannon ball was embedded in the chimney of Captain Lyon's house near the corner Mill and Cherry, suggesting that the Americans also had fortified Top E Toy Hill on East Mill Street.

The Americans under Colonel Griffin, however, could not resist the superior force of the English and were forced to retreat in the direction of Moorestown. Von Donop and his troops remained in Mount Holly as uninvited guests until the morning of the 26th when a dispatch rider reported the Battle of Trenton. On receiving the dispatch from Colonel von Minnigerode at Bordentown, telling of Washington's unexpected attack on Colonel Rall at Trenton,⁹ von Donop immediately left Mount Holly, first detailing Captain Ewald of the Hes-

sian Yagers to remain in Mount Holly with a rearguard of ninety men, giving him positive orders "to hold the place until the last man had fallen and at all hazards until midnight." Von Donop and his troops proceeded to Allentown in Monmouth County.

Von Donop had been completely outwitted by the Americans and doubtless his thoughts were anything but pleasant as he rode through the storm. Colonel Griffin and his men should be remembered with gratitude for their success in luring von Donop from Bordentown so that he could not go to Rall's assistance when the Battle of Trenton opened. Had he been at Bordentown, about six miles distant from Trenton, when the battle began he might have saved the day for the British, thus changing the course of history. Colonel Rall was generally blamed for the fiasco. Stryker says in his *Battles of Trenton and Princeton*:

"The only Hessian writer who fails to blame Colonel Rall is Captain Johann Ewald of the corps of yagers. He throws the responsibility on his own chief, Colonel von Donop: 'He was not able to tell a sham attack from a real one and foolishly took his force out of supporting distance of Rall's command.'"

It is not definitely known where von Donop made his headquarters, though it probably was in Winne's Tavern near the meeting house on Wood Lane. When the Hessians fled from Mount Holly on December 26, 1776, one of them left a book in the Quaker Meeting House at the corner of Main and Garden Streets, which was found and carefully preserved by Aaron Barton, who wrote on the fly-leaf a statement of when and where he found it. This interesting relic is now owned by Charles Evans, of Riverton, who purchased it from an antique dealer in Mount Holly.

Mount Holly apparently was free from British soldiers until June, 1778, when General Clinton camped in the town for two days **en route** to Monmouth Court House (now Freehold) near which the Battle of Monmouth was fought on June 28. General Clinton, with at least 15,000 men, 1500 baggage wagons and innumerable camp followers, evacuated Philadelphia on June 18 and camped

over night in Haddonfield. Early on the morning of the 19th Clinton divided his forces and with the Third, Fourth and Fifth brigades marched to Mount Laurel, then known as Evesham, where they camped for the night.¹⁰ General Clinton's headquarters is still standing on the road leading to Evesboro.

The other wing, commanded by the Hessian General Knyphausen, marched over the Kings Highway to Moorestown and camped in and near the stone Quaker Meeting House then standing at the corner of Main Street and Chester Avenue, opposite the present west meeting house. The historic buttonwood, near the handsome building of the Burlington County Trust Company, was standing at that time and doubtless American as well as British troops marched beneath its branches. The two wings of Clinton's Army met in Mount Holly on Saturday, the 20th, and remained over the weekend.

General Clinton issued the following order from his headquarters at Evesham on June 19:¹¹

"The troops to be under arms tomorrow morning at four o'clock and take up the same order of March as this day. They will receive orders to move off their ground from His Excellency Lieutenant General Cornwallis."

General Leslie, commanding the Advance Guard, issued the following order:¹²

"The advance sentries on no account to allow any soldiers to pass the outposts unless with parties with arms on duty, as the enemy has patrols all around to take up stragglers."

The advance of the British Army was hindered in every way possible by General Dickinson, of the New Jersey Militia and General Maxwell, of the Continental Army, who were stationed at Mount Holly with about 2000 troops. The bridges were destroyed and large trees felled across the road at the approach of the British. In addition to these obstructions it rained steadily on June 19 and consequently the roads almost were impassable.

General Washington and the Patriot Army were encamped at Valley Forge and the moment that Washington heard that Clinton had evacuated Philadelphia he

started in pursuit across New Jersey in the hope of intercepting him before he reached New York. The exact route of General Clinton, of course, was not known but the American Officers rightly assumed that he was heading for New York City. In the woods, near Smithville, entrenchments were hastily dug when General Dickinson learned that Philadelphia had been evacuated. Judge Slaughter and the writer visited the Smithville woods in 1936 and the entrenchments easily could be traced at that time and probably at the present.

General Clinton and his brigades marched from Mount Laurel via Fostertown and Eayrestown and entered Mount Holly on Pine Street. As they entered the town the soldiers destroyed the Iron Works in retaliation as the Foundry manufactured cannon balls, army kettles and other war materials for the American Army.

General Knyphausen and his Hessian brigades marched from Moorestown over the old road to Mount Holly and joined his Chief in that town on the 20th. While the Hessians were in Moorestown Joseph Roberts, great-great grandfather of William H. Roberts, Jr., of Moorestown, had two horses stolen and promptly called on Knyphausen and demanded their return. The General gave him the following order to look for his horses:¹³

Moors Town June 20, 1778

"The bearer, Joseph Roberts has my permission to go through the camp and look for some horses he lost. Wherever he finds them it is ordered hereby to deliver them up immediately."

Knyphausen

It is interesting to state that Joseph Roberts recovered his horses in Mount Holly. William Roberts has the original order, written in English as well as German.

It is not definitely known where General Clinton made his headquarters while in Mount Holly over the weekend. Lord Cornwallis, the second in command, is said to have stayed in Isaac Hazelhurst's home at the corner of Garden Street and the Jacksonville Road. General orders were issued on June 20th in which a court martial was ordered to be held at eight o'clock on the following morning-at "headquarters near Mount Holly." A court

martial was held on the 21st at which John Fisher, a drummer in the 28th Regiment, was tried and convicted of desertion and bearing arms in the "rebel" service. He was sentenced to be hanged "on the march tomorrow between the hours of four and twelve."¹⁴ He was hanged, according to tradition, from a tree on the road to Burlington near Columbus on the 22nd.

More than fifteen thousands soldiers, many baggage wagons and camp followers in a town of perhaps one thousand inhabitants naturally led to much confusion. Most of the residents had fled to the country with their most valuable possessions at the approach of the British Army. The Hessian soldiers were billeted in the deserted houses, a number being painted on the door of the house thus occupied.

The soldiers mostly camped on the high ground north of the mount as it had rained steadily during the past two days and the lowland near the creek was exceedingly muddy. Another reason for selecting this location was that it was on the old road to Slabtown, (Jacksonville) which the army followed when it vacated Mount Holly. It is said that the English officers used the Quaker meeting house near the present cemetery on Wood Lane as a stable for their horses.

History records that it was Gen. Clinton's intention to travel to New York via New Brunswick but altered his plans when he learned that the Patriot Army had left Valley Forge with the intention of intercepting the British Army before it reached that city. Clinton left Mount Holly on Monday, June 22nd,¹⁵ and tradition says that was fully forty-eight hours before the last man left the town. They travelled over the old road to Jacksonville at which village the main army turned to the right, passing the "Copany Meeting House," which had been used as a hospital when there was a skirmish at Petticoat Bridge in December, 1776. The army proceeded to Columbus and Mansfield where it camped on the night of the 22nd.

The New Jersey Gazette, of June 24, 1778, says:

"The enemy on their way through Burlington County wantonly

destroyed a merchandise mill near Bordentown, the iron-works at Mountholly and the dwelling house, outhouses etc of Peter Tallman, Esq. and Colonel Shreve (near Georgetown) . . . By the best account we have received upwards of 500 of the British army, chiefly Hessians, have deserted & returned to Philadelphia since the army left that City and a considerable number have come to other places."

Peter Tallman, Chairman of the Committee of Observation, lived near Mansfield on the Bordentown Road and Col. Israel Shreve, commanding officer of the Second Regiment of the New Jersey Continental Line, lived in the edge of Georgetown, on the road leading to Bordentown. Their homes were burned in retaliation, as they had rendered loyal service to the Patriot Cause. Gen. Clinton made his headquarters in a house near Mansfield, the identity of which is not definitely known. Orders were issued at Mansfield on June 22nd for the left column, under command of Lord Cornwallis to be ready to march at three o'clock and for the right column, under General Knyphausen, at four o'clock on the following morning. There is an interesting tradition that Martin Gibbs, of Columbus, was routed out of bed long before daylight and compelled to guide the British Army to Crosswicks, where it camped on the night of June 23rd.

The Hessians plundered the farmers on their march through the county and it is said that they robbed Whig and Tory alike as their orders were written in English which they could not read. They marched over the Old York Road which runs from Mansfield Square to Crosswicks. Five hundred Hessians are said to have deserted during the march across the state, as they had no interest in the war and fought because they were paid to fight.

A very interesting tradition has been handed down in the Taylor family, whose large farm is located near Chesterfield, formerly Recklesstown. The front lane leads to the Old York Road and is about a mile long. The back lane leads to Chesterfield and is still longer. It is an exceedingly interesting farm being located on the famous Indian Trail known as the "Burlington Path." The house now standing was erected by Anthony and Anne Taylor,



Friends Meeting House, Mount Holly, 1775. Photograph by William H. Roberts, Sr.



The first Episcopal Church in Mount Holly, 1742. Courtesy of St. Andrews Church.

whose initials are on the western gable and the year of its erection, 1766. Dr. E. Winslow Taylor,¹⁶ who then owned the farm, told me the story in 1933.

A party of raiders were seen riding down the lane from the Old York Road and the men on the farm were preparing to resist them. They dashed into the yard intent on plundering but Anne Newbold Taylor, the Quakeress, smilingly met them at the door and invited them in to partake of refreshments which she had prepared for them. The party of raiders was treated so beautifully that it left the house without plundering it.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 18

- 1 Stryker, *The Battles of Trenton and Princeton*, 47.
- 2 *Ibid*, 74. N. J. A. 2nd Series, Vol. 1, p. 170n.
- 3 *Friends Miscellany*, Vol. X, 226.
- 4 Stryker, *The Battles of Trenton and Princeton*, 337.
- 5 *Ibid*, 319.
- 6 *Ibid*, 66-67.
- 7 *Ibid*, 69.
- 8 *Ibid*, 69.
- 9 *Ibid*, 234.
- 10 Stryker, *The Battle of Monmouth*, 51.
- 11 *Ibid*, 53.
- 12 *Ibid*, 53.
- 13 The writer has a photostatic copy of the original order, which is dated "Moors Town June 20th, 1778."
- 14 Stryker, *The Battle of Monmouth*, 84.
- 15 *Ibid*, 55.
- 16 Dr. Taylor has since died and the farm is now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Frank Wallace.

Chapter 19

CENTENARIAN INSTITUTIONS

RELIEF FIRE COMPANY. Mount Holly is unusually rich in having so many institutions that have served the community for more than a century. Of these the Relief Fire Company on Pine Street is the oldest. It was organized in 1752 under the name "Britannia Fire Company" and is one of the oldest in the State. An early home of the company, a small frame building, now stands back of the Engine House on Pine Street, nearly opposite Church. It is said to have been built in 1798. It formerly stood in St. Andrews Cemetery on Iron Works Hill and was used as a tool house.

The Relief Company has the original Articles of Agreement of the Britannia Company and several of the leather buckets with the name "Britannia" with the year "1752" painted on them. The Articles of Agreement and the records of the company from the day of its organization, almost two hundred years ago, are carefully preserved by the officers of the company. This interesting old document reads in part:

"Articles of the Britannia Fire Company in Bridgetown the 11th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two:

We whose names are hereunto subscribed Reposing Special confidence in each others friendship and for the better preserving our own and our fellow townsmens houses, goods and effects from fire, having Each of us at our own proper costs provided a quantity of leather buckets according to the numbers thereof with each of our Names Respectfully subscribed, each being marked with our names, Respectively."

Signed by John Burr, Jr., Peter Bard, Henry Paxson, and forty-three others. Peter Bard was the first President of the Company.

On April 7, 1787, its name was changed to the Mount Holly Fire Company, doubtless for patriotic reasons. The present name, The Relief Fire Company, was adopted on

May 9, 1805.

MOUNT HOLLY FREE LIBRARY. This old library, now located in the Municipal Building on Washington Street, is the second oldest library in Burlington County. It was organized in 1765 as the Bridgetown Library and was chartered by King George III, of England. Its first home was in the Town Hall on the second floor of the old Market House that stood in the Plaza on Mill Street.

The Bridgetown Library Company was organized by a group of public spirited citizens who secured a charter from the King through the intervention of Governor William Franklin, the last of the Royal governors. Among the incorporators I note the following prominent county names: Wills, Budd, Haines, Leeds, Woolston, and Dobbins. John Brainerd, the missionary to the West Jersey Indians and William Claypoole, father of John Claypoole, the third husband of Betsy Ross, were also incorporators. The famous old charter, which bears the Royal Seal of Nova Caesarea has been carefully preserved and now hangs in the Library where visitors may see it.

The Library contains about one hundred and fifty volumes from the Bridgetown Library which are valued mementoes of the days of our forefathers. Miss Elizabeth H. Alcott, the courteous and helpful librarian, probably has no great difficulty in keeping these treasures from circulating, as Foster's Sermons, Smith's Wealth of Nations or Fox's Book of Martyrs and kindred subjects do not appeal to the reading public of today.

FEMALE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION. The Welfare Association of the present day had its prototype in the "Female Benevolent Association" of the days of our grandparents, which in Burlington County at least seems to have been the pioneer charitable organization. The Mount Holly Association was organized on January 26, 1814, and is still doing splendid work among the needy in Mount Holly and vicinity. Its purpose, as stated in its Constitution and By-Laws, was: "To endeavor to offer some relief to the poor and distressed or as many as may stand in need of assistance in any way that is in our power to bestow and we also wish to extend our views toward

opening a school at some future time for the instruction of poor children, if our present undertaking meets with sufficient encouragement."

It is evident that this little group of worthy women was supported in its work as on March 14, 1815, the trustees of the old schoolhouse on Brainerd Street, erected in 1759, granted it permission to open a school for the said purpose. In August of 1815, the Association decided to open a school in the quaint brick schoolhouse that is still standing on the northern side of Brainerd Street east of the Methodist Church. The schoolhouse is still in possession of the Benevolent Association. The present officers of the Association are: First Directress, Mrs. Jane C. Forbes, Second Directress, Mrs. Elizabeth Karg, Treasurer, Miss Mary W. Budd, Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth McCarthy, Secretary, Mrs. LaRue Lippincott.

MOUNT HOLLY LODGE No. 14, F. & A. M. This lodge, undoubtedly the oldest Masonic Lodge in the county, was organized under Lodge No. 18 on November 3, 1803. The first officers were: Worshipful Master, Joseph Read, Senior Warden, Charles Ellis, Junior Warden, Samuel J. Read. The first meeting of the lodge was held in Griffeth Owen's Tavern, a small two-story building that stood on the site of the Washington House at the corner of High and Water Streets, on May 21, 1804. In 1811 a small house on Water Street was purchased and for a number of years Lodge meetings were held on the second floor, the first floor being rented for other purposes.

On November 3, 1830, the Lodge surrendered its charter to the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, with the understanding that it could be renewed at a later date if so desired. Masonry at that time was passing through troubled waters and it is not at all surprising that the lodge fell by the wayside for a few years. It is pleasant to state that its charter was restored in 1849 under Lodge No. 14 and that it has had a continuous record of useful activity since that time. In 1859 a lot was purchased on the northern side of Water Street, near High, and the first Masonic Temple in Mount Holly was erected afterwards. This building, which is still standing at 23 Water Street,

served the needs of the Lodge until 1890, when a movement was started to build a more pretentious hall.

The conservative members of the Lodge felt that the plans agreed upon were far too elaborate and extravagant. The progressives, however, seem to have been in the saddle and a handsome Temple was erected on the southeast corner of Main and Brainerd Streets. The corner stone was laid with elaborate ceremony on July 30, 1891. The financial burden proved too heavy for the Lodge to carry and eventually the mortgage was foreclosed and the building passed into other hands. The Lodge continued to occupy the second floor until the building was destroyed by fire on January 28, 1925. Practically all of the Lodge's furnishings were lost but fortunately the Charter and membership roll were saved.

Like the fabled phenix the Lodge "rose from its ashes" and is now housed in its attractive Temple on Garden Street, opposite the Friends Burying Grounds. The lot on which the Temple stands was purchased on November 15, 1926, but it wisely was decided not to build until the mortgage was satisfied. In 1929 an active campaign to raise a building fund was inaugurated and the late Caleb S. Ridgway, of Lumberton, a Past Master of the Lodge, subscribed \$10,000 with the condition that the members pledge an equal amount. Mr. Ridgway's offer was gratefully accepted and more than \$11,000 promptly was raised by the committee.

The present officers of the Lodge are: Joseph L. Moorhouse, Worshipful Master, H. Bayard Allen, Senior Warden, Harold B. Allen, Junior Warden, A. Garfield Brown, P. M., Secretary, Walter I. Dill, Treasurer.

THE FARMERS TRUST COMPANY. This fine old banking institution, which has weathered the financial storms and business depressions for considerably more than a century and a quarter, was organized on July 9, 1814, during the stirring days of our second war with England. It was established under the name "Farmers Bank" and is the second oldest banking institution in the State, south of Trenton. The meeting for organization was held "at the house of Joseph Hatkinson, Innkeeper,"

which was located on the site of the Arcade Apartments on lower Main Street.

The Board of Directors chosen at this meeting elected Charles Shreve, President, and John Beatty, Jr., Cashier; their respective salaries being \$300 and \$800 per annum. Mr. Beatty's salary was soon raised to \$1000, which then was regarded as a munificent salary in a country town. The home of John Bispham, where the bank now stands, was purchased for \$2,000 and the Bispham house removed. The present building was erected shortly afterwards, which has since been enlarged and improved.

In 1818 John Black was elected President and served with marked success until his death in 1875, a period of fifty-seven years. His son, Alfred S. Black, a Director since 1863, was elected President in 1889 and served until 1901. On looking over the attractive booklet published on the occasion of the Bank's One Hundreth Anniversary in 1914, I found many items of human interest which throw interesting sidelights on the habits and business practices of our forefathers. In 1817 John Dobbins and Abraham Brown were named as a committee to purchase a clock and the fine old grandfather clock which the committee purchased is still faithfully serving the bank. The ancient iron box in which the cash and securities were kept in the early days is owned by the bank and is a cherished relic of the past.

In 1819 the Board decided to purchase a dog for the watchman and the president, John Black and John Dobbins, a director, were named to select a suitable animal, surely a distinguished committee to purchase a dog. It seems that the dog paid too much attention to the people passing the bank, as the Board at a later meeting directed the president to "take measures to keep the dog off of the street." A Board Meeting was called for September 28, 1824, but none of the Directors attended as they had all gone to Philadelphia to see LaFayette, who was visiting the city at that time.

In June, 1825, cashier Beatty was given a vacation of one week, the first that he had enjoyed since the bank opened in 1814. A subsequent record shows that he re-

ported for duty at the expiration of the time granted. It is especially interesting to note that the cashier was directed to refuse a loan to the Chemical National Bank of New York, now one of the strongest financial institutions in that city. In 1831 and again in 1832 the bank loaned \$3,000 to Prince Lucien Murat, the nephew of Joseph Bonaparte then living in Bordentown. The loan was secured by a mortgage on one of the Prince's farms in the vicinity of Bordentown. The mortgage was afterwards foreclosed and the bank bought the farm at a Sheriff's sale in 1837.

January 13, 1855, was an eventful day in the little town of Mount Holly. Early in the morning as some men were passing the "Farmers Bank," they heard groans in the building and when the doors were opened they found the watchman, Joseph W. Atkinson, bound and gagged and almost exhausted. It was his duty to sleep in the building and when he had entered the evening before he was seized by three men, who threw a bag over his head and after tying his hands and feet they gagged him and threw him on his cot with the threat "to silence him if he did not keep quiet."

The burglars succeeded in forcing open the outer door of the vault, which contained more than \$100,000, and later in the night tried to blow open the inner door with a charge of gunpowder. This door, however, could not be forced and the thieves gave up the attempt and fled from the bank. They were baffled by a simple and ingenious device installed by President Black. On the inside of the inner door there were two large staples through which a heavy bar was dropped from the room above, the end of the bar being concealed by a loose brick. The burglars were never captured, though the bank offered a reward of five hundred dollars for their arrest. The watchman remained with the bank for many years and when too old to perform his duties satisfactorily was retired with full pay.

In 1865 a stock dividend of 100% was declared and the name of the institution changed to the "Farmers National Bank of New Jersey." The present name, The Farmers Trust Company, was adopted on October 11, 1911, when

the stockholders voted almost unanimously to convert the bank into a Trust Company. The present officers are: President, Stanley Coville, Vice President, Arthur D. Cross, Secretary, Treasurer and Trust Officer, Kenneth F. Ried and Assistant, Oscar G. Anderson. Solicitor, Frank A. Hendrickson.

UNION FIRE COMPANY. This company, now located on Washington Street nearly opposite the Municipal Building, was organized on March 23, 1805, in Griffeth Owen's Tavern that stood on the site of the Washington Hotel. An association was formed for the purpose of protecting property from fire and the following officers were elected: Samuel J. Read, President, Griffeth Owen, Vice President, Charles Shreve, Treasurer, and Alexander R. Cox, Secretary. The annual dues were fifty cents.

A small frame engine house was erected in the Friends meeting house yard and stood for many years at the corner of Main and Garden Streets. It afterwards was enlarged and moved to the eastern end of the grave yard on Garden Street. When the present brick building on Washington Street was erected in 1893 the old fire house was moved to the new location and formerly stood on the bank of the Rancocas back of the engine house. The hand-power engine, which was purchased in 1805 when the company was organized, is now cared for by William Bush who lives in Rancocas Heights. Mr. Bush is a member of the Union Fire Company which greatly cherishes the old engine.

NEW JERSEY MIRROR.¹ It is rather remarkable that a town of the size of Mount Holly, until recently, should have had two weekly newspapers that were regularly published for more than a century—The New Jersey Mirror and Mount Holly Herald. Of these, the Mirror established in 1818, is the older. It was founded by Nathan Palmer and Son under the name "The Burlington Mirror." The first issue, published on September 18, 1818, was shown to the writer by the late Charles H. Folwell many years ago. It was a quaint and interesting paper of four pages, each page containing four columns of reading matter and advertisements.

About one year after its first appearance the name was changed to the "New Jersey Mirror and Burlington County Advertiser," a rather cumbersome name. Nathan Palmer died in 1842 and bequeathed the plant to his widow, Jerusha Palmer, who died in 1856 at the advanced age of ninety. Her daughter, Elizabeth Palmer, inherited the property and the paper continued under the management of Joseph Carr and Company.

In 1872 the plant was sold to Charles H. Folwell, father of the late owner of the same name. Mr. Folwell wisely changed the name of the paper to "The New Jersey Mirror," the attractive name which it last bore. Charles H. Folwell, Sr. died in 1884 and left the property to his widow, Marianna A. Folwell, in trust for his son Charles, minor. During the son's minority the Mirror was conducted by Joseph C. Kingdon, General Manager and Charles Ewan Merritt, Editor. Charles H. Folwell, Jr., became of age in 1892 and assumed control. Mr. Folwell died in 1946 and The Mirror was recently sold to "The Mirror Company, Inc." A complete file of the Mirror from 1818 to 1918 was sold a few years ago to the Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick.

MOUNT HOLLY HERALD. This enterprising paper was established in 1826 under the name "The New Jersey Chronicle," by Alexander A. Young. The Chronicle was a Whig paper when it was started but a year or two later it was purchased by a Mr. Melcher, who supported Andrew Jackson in 1828. In 1847, after many changes in ownership, the Chronicle was purchased by Peter C. Thompson and W. C. Allis; the latter selling his interest to J. Loxley Rhees shortly afterwards. Thompson and Rhees changed its name to "The Family Casket and Burlington County Herald," a cumbersome and inappropriate name. Moreton A. Stille, of Philadelphia, purchased the plant in 1850 and promptly changed the name of the paper to "The Mount Holly Herald," which name it still bears.

The Democratic Party was split in 1860; Stephen A. Douglas, the "Little Giant," being the candidate of the Northern Democrats and John C. Breckinridge of the

Southern. The Herald, then owned by Nathan Harper, loyally supported Douglas and naturally lost the patronage of the Breckinridge followers, of whom there were not a few in Burlington County.

Charles S. Wills purchased the Herald in 1861 and immediately installed machinery of a more modern type. He was succeeded by his son, William B. Wills, who brought the plant in 1874 and moved it to its present location on Main Street above the Union National Bank. Mr. Wills paid greater attention to county and local news and the circulation of the Herald was greatly increased. The Herald courageously supported Grover Cleveland and the Gold Standard in 1896 and for the time being lost the support of many of William Jennings Bryan's followers.

William B. Wills died in 1915, having edited the Herald for fifty-four years. Charles LaTour and George M. Sleeper purchased the plant shortly after Mr. Wills' death; Mr. LaTour assuming the editorship and Mr. Sleeper the management of the plant. The firm of LaTour and Sleeper was dissolved in 1922 and George M. Sleeper became the sole owner and editor of the Herald. Mr. Sleeper died on Christmas Day, 1939, and his son, G. Howard Sleeper is now the Editor and publisher. The Mount Holly Herald is the leading Democratic paper in the county and has the largest circulation.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 19

¹ The Mirror was discontinued in 1946.

Chapter 20

WOOLMAN AND BRAINERD

IN 1720 two babes were born who were destined to add luster to the annals of Mount Holly. Each was appropriately named John, which in Hebrew means "The gracious gift of God." One was the son of a Burlington County farmer; the other the son of a member of the King's Council in the Province of Connecticut.

One received "schooling pretty well for a planter" in a country schoolhouse near Rancocas: the other was a graduate of Yale College. One devoted his life to the emancipation of the slaves: the other to the Christianization of the West Jersey Indians.

One gave up a lucrative business in Mount Holly in order that he could devote his life more fully to his Master's service; the other his cultured home in Haddam, Connecticut, and the prospect of advancement in the ministry, to serve God in the wilderness of West Jersey. One was a Friend and the other a Presbyterian. Their manner of worship and conception of the ministry differed greatly yet they were equally devoted to the service of God.

JOHN WOOLMAN. John Woolman was born on the bank of the Rancocas, near the village of Rancocas, on October 19, 1720 and lived with his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Burr Woolman, until twenty years of age. He moved to Mount Holly in 1740, having been employed by a shop keeper "to tend shop and keep books." It is probable that John Ogborn from whom he purchased the property at 47 Mill Street, Mount Holly, in 1747, was his employer and that the stuccoed brick house was the scene of his early labors in that town.¹

His removal from his father's farm to Mount Holly, then a thriving village of less than one hundred homes, was an epochal event in the country boy's life as he doubtless realized that he would be subjected to far greater

temptations. He was a young man of a deeply religious nature, yet subject to all the temptations natural to youth. "At the age of sixteen," he tells us in his Journal, "I began to love wanton company and though I was preserved from profane language and scandalous conduct yet I perceived a plant in me which produced much wild grapes."

The story of his struggle with temptation and of his final victory while in his youth is most interesting and inspiring. At the time he settled in Mount Holly in 1740 he had completely surrendered his will to God and from that time until his death in England in 1772, his life was devoted to the service of his Master.

John Woolman first appeared in the ministry, to use a Quaker expression, when twenty-three years of age and the account of this*very important event in his religious life is interestingly told in his Journal. "One day being under a strong exercise of spirit I stood up and said some words in a meeting; but not keeping close to the Divine opening I said more than was required of me. Being soon sensible of my error, I was afflicted in my mind some weeks without any light or comfort even to that degree that I could not take satisfaction in anything. I remembered God and was troubled and in the depth of my distress He had pity on me and sent the Comforter. I then felt forgiveness for my offense; my mind became calm and quiet and I was truly thankful to my gracious Redeemer for His mercies."

"About six weeks after this, feeling the spring of Divine love and a concern to speak, I said a few words in a meeting in which I found peace." Thus in sweet humility began the ministerial career of one of the most saintly Quakers of all time. His conception of the ministry was deeply spiritual. "All the faithful," he says in his Journal, "are not called to the public ministry; but those who are, are called to minister of that which they have tasted and handled spiritually. The outward methods of worship are various; but when they are true ministers of Jesus Christ it is from the operation of His spirit upon their hearts first purifying them and thus giving them a just sense of the condition of others."

The catholicity of his views in an age of narrowness

and bigotry are beautifully expressed in the following passage:

"I found no narrowness respecting Sects and opinions, but believed that sincere, upright-hearted people in every society (denomination) who truly love God were accepted of Him."

Shortly after his arrival in Mount Holly his employer asked him to write a bill of sale for a negro woman, whom he had sold to a member of the Society of Friends and though not easy in his mind to write it, he yielded "through weakness" as he desired to do his master's bidding, being hired by the year. He "was so afflicted in his mind," however, that after executing the paper he remarked to his employer and to the Friend who had purchased the slave, "that he believed that slave-keeping to be a practice inconsistent with the Christian religion." This episode marked the beginning of his remarkable crusade against slavery and from that hour he consistently refused to write a will, "though a profitable employ," when a slave was bequeathed or write a bill of sale for a negro.

Soon after this occurrence he started on the first of his many journeys visiting the wealthy slave-holding Friends and urging them to set their slaves free. In one instance, at least, he insisted on leaving money for the slaves when he felt that it was not right to accept the hospitality of the luxurious home which was supported by unpaid labor. This, no doubt, was a great trial to his host as well as to himself. His labor of love was not in vain as many of the Friends visited, afterwards liberated their slaves. Woolman was largely instrumental in arousing the Society of Friends to see that slavery was not in accord with the teaching of Christ.

After serving his employer for several years, John Woolman began to consider other ways of earning a livelihood. He had other offers of employment "that appeared profitable" but declined them as he feared that they would be attended with too much "outward care and cumber." His employer was a tailor by trade and kept a serving man in that business and he finally decid-

ed to learn that trade, believing that if he should ever "settle" he might by following it diligently and "a little retailing of goods get a living in a plain way without the load of a great business." He served an apprenticeship of three years, after which he opened a little retail store and tailor shop of his own.

The rear portion of the brick house, formerly standing at 47 Mill Street, was the only building in Mount Holly that Woolman was known to have owned. He purchased the property in 1747 and sold it to his mother, Elizabeth Burr Woolman, in 1753 and it was inherited by her daughter Rachel in 1773. Her will mentioned "her brick house in Mount Holly with the framed shop and all the lot belonging."

John Woolman's account of his courtship and marriage, as told in his Journal, is quaint and interesting. "Believing it good for me to settle and thinking seriously about a companion, my heart was turned to the Lord with desires that He would give me wisdom to proceed therein agreeable to His will and He was pleased to give me a well-inclined damsel, Sarah Ellis, to whom I was married on the 18th of 8th mo, 1749." A rather prosaic account of his wedding yet we know that he was a man of deep affections, as his letters written to his wife when on his religious journeys were loving and showed a tender solicitude for her welfare.

He continued to work at his tailoring trade and to keep a store until 1756 when he felt "a Stop in his mind" as he was becoming too prosperous. Quoting again from his Journal:

"Through the mercies of the Almighty, I had in a good degree, learned to be content with a plain way of living. I had but a small family; and, on serious consideration, believed truth did not require me to engage much in cumbering affairs."

He gradually began to withdraw from his retail business and thoughtfully so advised his customers so that they could make other arrangements for purchasing their needs. He continued his tailoring business but devoted part of his time to his little farm on Springfield Road,

which he purchased from Peter Andrews in 1748, "in hoeing, grafting, trimming and inoculating" the fruit trees.

I cannot in this brief sketch more than refer to the life work of John Woolman. He is known to us largely because of the literary and spiritual beauty of his incomparable Journal, pronounced by William Ellery Channing to be "by all comparison the sweetest and purist autobiography in the language." Henry Crabbe Robinson, a gifted writer, pronounced it "A perfect gem! His was a **Schone Seele**, a beautiful soul." Woolman's Journal was one of the first books selected by Dr. Charles W. Eliot for his famous "Harvard Classics." For many years it was used as a text book by Princeton University, then a College, because of the purity of its English.

The well known incident of killing a mother robin when a mere lad, as told in Chapter 8, beautifully illustrates his loving and sympathetic nature and also indicates that he was a normal country boy. In the world of religious thought he is appreciated more and more as the years roll by. Throughout his Journal and Essays there runs the golden thread of love. His was a religion of love, love of God and of his fellow men of all races and creeds. "To turn all the treasures we possess into the channels of universal love," he tells us, "becomes the duty of our lives."

John Woolman sailed for England under a religious concern on May 1, 1772, never to return. He died at the home of Thomas Priestman in York on October 7, 1772, and was interred in the Friends Burying Ground. He travelled to England in the steerage of the ship **Mary and Elizabeth**, as he felt that it would not be right for him to support the luxury of a first class cabin. On arriving at London he hastened to the London Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, then in session, clad in his homespun suit of undyed wool and white beaver hat. At a suitable moment he presented his minute from the Burlington Monthly Meeting liberating him for religious service in England.

Doubtless John Woolman appeared very uncouth in

his strange garb as he had just come off the boat and the English Friends could hardly be blamed for not liberating him for religious service in England. Dr. John Fothergill, a prominent and influential member of the meeting, rose and suggested "that perhaps the stranger Friend might feel that his dedication of himself to this apprehended service was accepted without further labor, and that he might now feel free to return to his home."

John Woolman was deeply moved and after sitting in silence for several minutes, arose and said in a gentle and dignified manner that he could not feel relieved from service in England and said that he was a tailor and would appreciate being given work, as he did not feel free to accept their hospitality while his minute was not accepted. After he sat down there was a period of deep silence and then Dr. Fothergill arose and begged John Woolman's pardon, after which his minute was accepted with the unity of the meeting.²

JOHN BRAINERD. John Brainerd, son of Hezekiah Brainerd, a member of the King's Council and brother of David Brainerd, the gifted Presbyterian missionary, was born near Haddam, Connecticut, on February 28, 1720. Somewhat eclipsed by the tragic martyrdom of his elder brother David, John Brainerd has never been accorded the place in Burlington County history to which he is justly entitled.

In June, 1744, David Brainerd, a young man twenty-five years of age, began his labors among the Indians in the neighborhood of Cranberry and Crosswicks and his success in converting the natives to Christianity during the next three years was remarkable. The Crosswicks Indians, largely through his efforts, were moved to a tract of land near Cranberry to which they claimed title. Here David Brainerd established the Christian Indian town of Bethel, which at the time of his death in 1747 contained about one hundred and twenty Indians. Of these thirty-eight had been admitted to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and thirty-seven infants were baptized.

The story of his heroic struggle with tuberculosis and

his tragic death in the wilderness of New Jersey cannot be told here. In the spring of 1747 the Correspondents of the Scottish Society for Propagating the Gospel, realizing that he could not recover, sent his brother John to Bethel to carry on his work. On April 14, 1747, David recorded in his Journal: "This day my brother went to my people." The mantle of Elijah could not have fallen on more worthy shoulders.

John Brainerd, then twenty-seven years of age, was preparing for the ministry yet without hesitation he gave up all thought of personal advancement and joyfully accepted the call. He settled in David's cabin at Bethel and was warmly welcomed by the Indians. Shortly after assuming charge of the mission a terrible epidemic, probably smallpox, swept through the countryside and carried off many of his flock. In 1749 a greater calamity threatened the Indians as some unscrupulous persons discovered a flaw in the Indian title to the land and started court proceedings to eject them from their homes. Unfortunately they were successful and by 1754 the little group of Christian Indians was scattered far and wide.

In May, 1755, John Brainerd was dismissed by the Scottish Society and accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church in Newark, where he preached for several years. His dismissal was a bitter disappointment to him yet he accepted it without complaint and in a spirit of true christian charity.

I will pass over the events of the next few years and take up the thread of his life in 1758, when the commissioners appointed by the Governor, under the authority of the Legislature, purchased a tract containing more than 3000 acres in Shamong Township for the exclusive use of the Indians living south of the Raritan River. In return the Indians agreed to surrender title to all unsold land. To this tract, located at Indian Mills, the Indians were removed in 1759 with the exception of one or two small groups who lived on their own land granted to them by the early Quakers. The Indian Mills Reservation was undoubtedly the first to be established in the United States by State or Federal Government.

Governor Bernard appropriately named the settlement "Brotherton," as so many tribes were represented. The reservation, at the start, contained about one hundred Indians. Again the call of duty came to John Brainerd and again he gave little thought to his personal comfort and accepted the call. The Scottish Society, at the earnest request of Governor Bernard, appointed him Missionary to the Reservation Indians and in 1862 Governor Hardy appointed Brainerd Superintendent of the Reservation.

In 1759 John Brainerd moved to Brotherton, now Indian Mills, and entered upon his work with the natives and white settlers in the pines. He was a widower at the time, his wife Experience Lyons having died in 1757, leaving him the care of three children, Mary, Sophia and David. The latter two died in childhood. Mary was six years of age when her father moved to the reservation and doubtless was a great comfort to him in his wilderness home. In 1779 Mary married Major John Ross, of Mount Holly, and all of John Brainerd's descendants trace their descent from their daughter Sophia, who married John Lardner Clark in 1797. John Brainerd married Mrs. Elizabeth Price, a widow, in about 1766 but apparently they did not have any children.

In 1760 he built a small log church at the reservation and during the following year or two a schoolhouse, gristmill and trading store, for which he tells us in his Journal, he advanced two hundred pounds of his own money, after appealing in vain to the Legislature for assistance.³ The following extracts from a letter written to Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, of Wethersfield, Connecticut, will give the reader a clearer idea of his surroundings and arduous duties than any description that could be written at this time:⁴

Brotherton in N. J. August 24, 1761

"Madam:

According to my promise, I here send an account of the Indian mission in this province, which for some years has been the object of my care. On this spot, which is a fine, large tract of land, and very commodiously situated for their settlement, there are something upward of an hundred, old and young . . . I spend something more than half my Sabbaths here at Brother-

ton; the rest are divided. At this place I have few white people; the reason is because this is near central between the Delaware and the sea and the English settlements are chiefly on them. The other places are in the midst of the inhabitants and whenever I preach there I have a large gathering of white people that meet to attend Divine service. But besides these I preach at eight different places on the Lord's day and near twenty on other days of the week, and never fail of a considerable congregation—so large and extensive is this vacancy. Two large counties and a considerable part of two more, almost wholly destitute of a preached gospel (except what the Quakers do in their way) and many people but one remove from a state of heathenism."

John Brainerd

This letter gives us a picture of the reservation shortly after its establishment and of his own heroic labors in the wilderness of South Jersey. His field extended to the sea and along the Jersey coast from Cape May to Toms River. He travelled on horseback through sunshine and storm, summer and winter, carrying the Word of God to the inhabitants of the pine lands. He tells us that he received 59 pounds, 19 shillings for preaching five hundred sermons, not at the mission, or approximately two shillings per sermon, yet he says in his Journal, "he doubtless was called by some in contempt a hireling minister."⁵ Some day, let us hope, that a monument will be erected to honor the memory of that faithful and devoted servant of God, the itinerant preacher of "ye olden tyme."

In 1768 John Brainerd moved to Mount Holly, possibly because of failing health or a desire to be near two of his stations, Rancocas and Quakertown (now Vincentown). I have never been able to locate his "preaching station" at Rancocas but doubtless it was on the Rancocas Creek as the Indian villages were nearly always located on a stream or near a never failing spring. His station at Vincentown was located a little over a mile west of that town, probably on the farm now owned by Emmor Roberts. At the Indian village of "Coaxen" he erected a log or frame church and after Brotherton it was probably his most important mission.

Like all humble minded Christian workers, Brainerd at times became deeply discouraged because he could not bring more souls to Christ. In a letter written at Brother-ton in 1764 to his friend Dr. Wheelock, founder of Dartmouth College, he said: "I have greatly to mourn my unsuccessfulness among the Indians and (I thank God) some good is done."

He had purchased a plot of ground in Mount Holly from Edward Tonkin in 1761 which extended from New Street (now Brainerd) northward to Garden Street and eastward to Buttonwood and upon this tract, a few years later, he erected a small church or meeting house. This little church stood on the site of the present Methodist Church on the northern side of Brainerd Street. The first Presbyterian services in Burlington County were held in this little church. It was destroyed by the British soldiers when in Mount Holly in 1778, in retaliation as Brainerd was an ardent patriot and preached many sermons urging the young men to enlist.

Thomas Brainerd, his biographer, states that he built a schoolhouse near the church but thus far I have not been able to find any evidence to substantiate this statement. The quaint little brick schoolhouse now standing a few doors east of the Methodist Church, although known as the Brainerd Schoolhouse, was not built by him. I can find no evidence to prove that he ever taught school in Mount Holly, although he may have done so. His schools, in so far as I can learn, were for the Indian children and of course there were very few, if any, Indians in Mount Holly at that time.

His best known school was located at Indian Mills, which for the most part was taught by Christian Indians, the most famous of which was Bartholomew S. Calvin, whom Brainerd supported at Princeton College. His accounts show that his school at Indian Mills was closed in 1773 because he could not secure a "proper master." He added, however, that whenever possible he, himself, taught the school, which seems to indicate that he was never the regular teacher.

John Brainerd's home in Mount Holly was located on

the northern side of Brainerd Street, near Buttonwood, and was moved to a small street running north from Washington Street in the western end of the town many years ago. Judge Slaughter once showed the writer the house, which has been so altered and enlarged that it bears little resemblance to Brainerd's home. There is little in Mount Holly today to remind us of this great and good man. New Street was renamed Brainerd Street in his honor and the Brainerd Memorial adjoining the Presbyterian Church on Garden Street serve to keep his memory alive in the neighborhood. The Memorial building contains a number of interesting relics, the most interesting of which is the Conch Shell which John Brainerd used to call the Indians to the Church service.

It is probable that the years he lived in Mount Holly were among the happiest in his missionary life. He, of course, was away from Mount Holly a great deal of his time on his missionary labors but to have a comfortable home in a cultured neighborhood to which he was welcomed by wife and daughter must have been a joy after living so many years among the Indians. He moved from Mount Holly to Brotherton in 1775 and two years later settled in Deerfield, Cumberland County, where he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church. He died on March 18, 1781, and was buried beneath the church floor. His remains were moved to the graveyard in 1907 and a marble slab bearing the following inscription was placed over the grave:

Rev. John Brainerd,
born
Feb. 28, 1720
died
Mar. 18, 1781
aged 61 years & 19 days
The Memory of the just is blessed
Prov. 10:7
Faithful unto death.
Rev. 2:10

Father Brainerd, as his Indians called him, is known to

us largely as the Presbyterian Missionary to the Reservation Indians, yet his service as a minister to the white inhabitants of the county is of equal, if not greater importance. He should be remembered also as the pioneer minister of the Presbyterian Faith in Burlington County and the founder of the Church in Mount Holly. His Church honored him in 1751, only three years after he was ordained as a minister, by enrolling him as a member of the Presbytery of New York and in 1754 by electing him as member of the Board of Trustees of Princeton College, an honor which he held until his death. He was still further honored in 1762 by being chosen Moderator of the New York and Philadelphia Synod. He graduated from Yale College in 1746.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 20

- 1 Rancocas Edition of John Woolman's Journal.
- 2 Whitney, 394-396.
- 3 For further information regarding the Reservation refer Chapter 26.
- 4 Life of John Brainerd, by Rev. Thomas Brainerd, page 316.
- 5 Doubtless by the early Friends. However, the phrase was never used "in contempt." The author is a birthright member of the Religious Society of Friends and has passed his 82nd milestone. In my youth a minister of another denomination was frequently called "a hireling minister." Friends believe in a "Free Gospel Ministry" and any one who was paid to preach was to the early Friends "a hireling minister." It was an unjust expression, especially when applied to a minister like John Brainerd and all modern Quakers are thankful that it is no longer used.

Chapter 21

THE SOUTH BRANCH

THE beauty of the picturesque Rancocas and its many tributaries has never been fittingly celebrated in song or story. Let us hope that some gifted writer will be inspired to picture for us its many windings through field and forest, its Indian and historic lore, its fauna and flora. It would be difficult and perhaps unwise to suggest that either the North Branch which flows through Pemberton and Mount Holly or the South Branch which flows through Lumberton and Hainesport is the more beautiful as each stream has its devotees. The South Branch surely is no less beautiful than the North and in no place is it more picturesque than at Lumberton.

The stream that flows from its headwaters in the pines south of Medford through Kirby's Mill and empties into the Rancocas below Eayrestown, is especially attractive. This stream, the Cotoxen of Indian days, is still known by that name but more frequently by the less romantic name of Haines Creek. It follows a winding course between banks laden with shrubs and wild flowers of many colors and is a veritable paradise to the canoeist and camper.

Not infrequently the stream flows beneath a canopy of leaves through which an occasional bit of sky is glimpsed and in places the bend in the creek is so decided that the voices of the canoeists may be heard before the canoe appears around the bend. It requires but little imagination to picture this solitude peopled by Indians or the waters stirred by otter or the industrious beaver. Perhaps an acutely attuned ear will hear the cry of the panther or wolf-pack chasing a deer through the forest.

Prior to the era of the turnpike and the opening of the railroad from Mount Holly to Camden in 1867 and to Medford two years later, both branches of the Rancocas were scenes of great commercial activity. The story of navigation on the Rancocas will be told in Chapter 24.

Before the days of the steamboat, lumber, farm produce and the output of the furnaces and forges were shipped to Philadelphia on sailboats, scows and batteaus and returned laden with household goods or farm implements.

HAINESPORT. The village of Hainesport, formerly known as "Long Bridge", was named for Barclay Haines, a prominent and influential resident. Barclay Haines purchased a tract of land containing 208 acres in 1840 from Joseph Engle and two years later an additional farm of 103 acres, located "on the north side of the South Branch on the road from Long Bridge to Lumberton."

The late Fenton Middleton's attractive residence, now the home of his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Middleton, above the railroad on the Lumberton Road, stands on this farm. According to tradition, which Mr. Middleton believed to be true, the lane leading to the Middleton residence, is part of the old Philadelphia road. The present more direct road from Mount Holly to Camden, through Moorestown, was surveyed in 1794. The old road crossed the Rancocas a little above the railroad and nearly opposite the Middleton property. Some of the piling of the original "Long Bridge" could be seen at low tide about fifteen years ago.

Doubtless it was over this old road that General Knyphausen and his troops passed on June 20, 1778, on their way from Moorestown to Mount Holly. General Clinton and his three British brigades camped at Evesham (Mount Laurel) on the 19th and the two wings of his large army were united in Mount Holly on the 20th. Clinton marched to Mount Holly via Fostertown and Eayrestown and entered the former town on Pine Street.

Andrew Bell, Clinton's confidential secretary, kept a journal in which he recorded on June 20, in Mount Holly:¹

"At a small distance from this town a bridge was broken down by the Rebels, which when our people were repairing, were fired on by those villains from the house, two of whom were taken, three killed, and the other two ran into the cellar and fastened it, so that we were obliged to burn the house and consume them in it."

This incident probably occurred at "Long Bridge," as

Knyphausen had two English regiments with him and Clinton's secretary may have been with them. William Edmond, then living in Hainesport, told the writer about ten years ago that there was a tradition in the family that his great-great grandfather was burned to death at Long Bridge.

A steam sawmill was established at Hainesport in about 1853 by Middleton, Thorn & Company. It was purchased by the John D. Johnson Foundry Company in 1870 and used as a storehouse for castings. The foundry was established in 1852 by John D. Johnson and Richard Dawson, the partners trading under the name "Columbia Iron Works." After a few years Mr. Dawson retired and the name of the firm was changed to John D. Johnson Company. The foundry has not been in operation for many years but the buildings are still standing near the bridge at Hainesport. Mr. Johnson died in 1875 and the business was continued by his widow, Catherine Johnson and her son Robert M. Johnson. The company manufactured soil pipes, sinks and other plumbing supplies.

It is interesting to remember that Uriah Woolman, a younger brother of John Woolman, once owned "Breezy Ridge," a large plantation between the two branches of Rancocas Creek, below the bridge at Hainesport. Breezy Ridge was owned by Charles Read prior to 1758 and in 1761 he sold the plantation, containing 492 acres, to Thomas Bispham of Gloucester County. On September 18, 1776², the executors of Thomas Bispham sold the tract to Uriah Woolman for 1450 pounds. It is probable that the framed gambrel roofed house, which was burned in the 1920's, was built by Charles Read. It stood on the bluff near the creek.

LUMBERTON. The pleasant village of Lumberton, attractively located on the Rancocas two miles above Hainesport, does not have an eventful history yet "there are those who love it." It seems to have been by-passed by the Revolutionary War, as history does not record that either the American or British troops ever visited it. Main Street, running north and south, follows the general course of an old Indian trail, known as the Shamong

Trail, which ran from the site of Burlington City through Mount Holly, Lumberton, Medford, Shamong (now Indian Mills), Atsion and hence to Cape May.

At the time of the Revolutionary War Lumberton was a tiny hamlet of not more than ten or fifteen houses strung along the old road, now Main Street. Then as now there was but one cross street, now Landing Street. In 1834, according to Gordon, there were 25 or 30 dwellings, 2 stores, 2 taverns and 1 steel furnace. Barber & Howe's Historical Collections, 1844, lists 1 store, a sawmill, a glass factory, a Methodist Church and about 45 houses. There is evidence that the glass factory was located on the Franklin Jones property on East Landing Street. Miss Grace E. Jones, a sister of Mr. Jones, stated to the writer they have found many pieces of glass in their yard and the fact that much glass has been ploughed up during the past years would suggest that it was located there. The high land on which the house is located is the only location in Lumberton where sand is found is also suggestive.

The first settlers in the neighborhood were John, Thomas and Richard Haines, Benjamin Moore and Dr. Robert Dimsdale. Dr. Dimsdale was the first to take up land where the village now stands. The following survey is recorded in Trenton and is dated December 10, 1684. It reads in part:³

"Return of survey for Robert Dimsdale, of 1600 acres on the Southbranch of Ancocas alias Northampton River, along the line of an old Indian purchase and the Northbranch of the said River; also 133 acres on said Northbranch over against Walter Reeve's."

This large tract extended from the Rancocas at Lumberton to Mount Holly on the North Branch. The exact location of Dr. Dimsdale's residence is not known today. In all probability it stood on the Rancocas near the village of Lumberton. Dr. Dimsdale was a wealthy Englishman and was one of the first doctors to settle in the county; Dr. Daniel Wills being the first. In 1682 he had purchased one-third of a share of land in West Jersey from Nicolas Lucas. This proprietary right entitled him to locate approximately 10,000 acres of land in West Jersey from

any unappropriated land.

Dr. Dimsdale is said to have come over with William Penn in the **Welcome** in 1682 and first settled on the northern side of Rancocas Creek, west of the village of the same name.⁴ His second wife was Sarah Collins, daughter of Francis Collins, the founder of the family in West Jersey. Dr. Dimsdale returned to England in 1688, where he died in 1718. His widow returned to America and settled in Haddonfield. The plantation remained in the family until 1746 when the section on the South Branch was sold to Richard S. Smith and Ebenezer Large. In 1799 the executors of Richard S. Smith sold 95 acres to Thomas Burr. This tract lay west of Main Street and north of the Rancocas.

Richard and Margaret Haines, the progenitors of the family in West Jersey, came from England on the ship **Amity** in 1682. It was a tragic journey for Margaret Haines, as her husband died and her son Joseph was born during the voyage. John Haines, the eldest son, located 200 acres below Lumberton on the Bull's Head Road in 1683. The survey, recorded in 11th month (January), 1683, reads:⁵

"For John Haynes one parcell of land abutting on the south side of the South Branch of Northampton River and from a white oak thereby marked, it runs S.W. 80 chains to a white oak for a second corner, then N. W. 25 chains to a black oak for a third corner, then N. E. again to said river. Surveyed for 200 acres."

John Haines married Esther Borton, daughter of John and Ann Borton, on 10th mo, 10th, 1684, and settled on the above plantation. He later made additional purchases of land in the neighborhood; one of which was located on Cotoxen Creek at Kirby's Mills. Here he built a dam across the creek and established the first sawmill and gristmill in that locality. Part of this plantation remained in the Haines family until 1919 when George R. Haines sold the house and farm to Frederick Tschirner.

In 1711, John, Richard, William and Joseph Haines, Benjamin Moore, Thomas Wilkins and John Borton purchased 2240 acres known as the "Friendship Tract⁶," the exact location of which is unknown to the writer.

The survey begins: "On the high land four chains west from the creek called the Cuttonxink and runs easterly." This stream doubtless was the Cotoxen which runs through Kirby's Mills. The names Friendship and Friendship Creek may suggest the location of the Friendship Tract.

Benjamin Moore, the pioneer, located 100 acres on the south side of the Rancocas adjoining John Haines. The survey was recorded in the "11th month, 1683," and reads⁷:

"Return of Survey by Daniel Leeds, for Benjamin Moore, of 100 acres on the South branch of Northampton River between John Haynes and a small creek."

The brick house erected by Joseph Moore, son of Benjamin, who married Patience Woolman, sister of the Journalist, in 1754 is still standing. The letter "M" and the year 1754 appear on the western end of the house. The letters J & P evidently were obliterated when the two windows were inserted. The two adjoining farms extended "back into the woods" exactly one mile.

A little over a half mile west of Lumberton on the Bull's Head Road there is an interesting old log stable, perhaps the only one in the county. It stands on what is locally known as the "Stiles Farm" and was erected early in the 18th century. It is located back of a modern barn and cannot be seen from the road. Some of the old mangers are still intact.

There are a number of colonial houses in and around Lumberton. The little cottage on Main Street north of "Boxwood Lodge," formerly the home of Mrs. Ruth Abbott Rogers, is said to be the oldest house in the village and probably was built prior to the Revolutionary War. It is quaint and very interesting and as Mrs. Rogers is a lover of old houses she took great pride in retaining its colonial features. The house and lot was formerly part of the Boxwood Lodge property. Boxwood Lodge was recently owned by Mrs. Mary R. Tyssowski, who inherited the property from her father Joseph Robinson. Mrs. Tyssowski conducted a famous restaurant in the century old house for many years. It is now an Apartment House.

The farm now owned by Joseph W. Jones, of Lumberton, located east of the village, is part of the Dimsdale plantation. The ancient farmhouse is reached by a long lane that starts at Main Street south of the standpipe. The northern section of the old brick house was erected in 1776. The year in which it was built originally appeared in the southern gable but as the second figure of 1776 was obliterated and the third somewhat marred when a window was added, it is rather difficult to read the date correctly. The date can be seen only from the attic of the newer section of the old building. Architects and antiquarians first thought that the house was built in 1716 but a closer and more careful inspection convinced them that 1776 was the correct date.

The pent roof, which extends around three sides of the old section of the house, the blue-end header bricks, the water table, the wide floor boards and other colonial features clearly indicate its age. There is an especially fine fireplace in the north room of the second floor. The ancient door in the cellar with wooden hinges and latch are supposed to have been removed from a log house that formerly stood near the present building.

There is an ancient brick farmhouse on the Phillip's Road, near the Fostertown-Masonville Road, nearly two miles northwest of Fostertown. The eastern end of the old house was erected by Thomas Wilkins, Jr., son of the pioneer of the same name, in 1732. The date stone on the north side of the house reads: T W, 1732 and W S W, 1790. The latter initials probably stand for William and Sarah Wilkins, son and daughter-in-law of Thomas Wilkins, Jr. The house originally faced to the south, as this side is made with blue header bricks and is much fancier than the northern side. The road apparently ran to the south of the farmhouse in the early days.

The farm is now owned by Theodore H. Verner, who purchased it from Julia S. Haines, widow of Josiah L. Haines, in 1915. The farm then contained a little over 100 acres.

The residence of Charles W. Mendenhall, 35 Main Street, located south of the bridge over Rancocas Creek,

is one of the oldest houses in Lumberton. It is a frame brick-paned house that has been stuccoed. Mr. Mendenhall stated to the writer that the weatherboards are about as wide as the floorboards in the front room of the house. The long hinges on the front and back doors, the wooden bar on the rear door, the HL hinges on many of the doors, the old style latches, all indicate that house was built before the Revolutionary War.

The old tavern is still standing on the eastern side of Main Street, south of Boxwood Lodge, though used as a dwelling house at the present time. It is directly across a little street running south of John J. Buswell's attractive residence. I do not know when or by whom the tavern was built but it is evidently an 18th century house. It is supposed to have been the first tavern in Lumberton. There is a very good picture of the old tavern in Scott's Atlas of Burlington County, 1876, and it is called the "Mineral Springs Hotel."

The village began to develop as a manufacturing center in about 1800. Prior to that period it was a Trading Post and shipping point for the farmers, lumbermen and the early furnaces. The commerce of Lumberton during the 18th century and the early decades of the 19th was extensive. Large quantities of lumber and cordwood were shipped from the landing; hence the village was called Lumberton.

A steel furnace was established in 1807 by Samuel E. Howell, Benjamin Jones and Joseph E. Howell. In 1811 Benjamin Jones and Joseph Howell conveyed their interests to Samuel Howell, who is generally regarded as the founder of the Steel Furnace. The Furnace was located on the old channel of Rancocas Creek on the "Abbie Oliphant" property, 10 West Landing Street, now owned by Mrs. Agnes deCou Budd.

Mrs. Budd has greatly improved the interior of the house, erected in 1807, and has added a modern bathroom and an oil burner heating system. The house was the residence of Samuel Howell. The little building west of Mrs. Budd's residence was the office of the Steel Furnace, which stood on the old channel. The lot on which



Cobbler's Cottage, Lumberton. Said to be the oldest house in Lumberton. Courtesy of Mrs. Kneeland McNulty. Photographed by Mrs. Agnes deCou Budd.



Joseph W. Jones House, near Lumberton, 1776. Courtesy of Mr. Jones. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

the house and office stand was conveyed to Samuel E. Howell and Partners on July 29, 1807⁸, by Samuel Hewlings for \$175.00. The price paid for 100 perches of land or a little less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of an acre, near the center of the village, would indicate that there was no house on the lot at the time of sale.

Samuel Howell sold the property to Robert S. Johnson in 1825 for \$1,200.⁹ The deed conveyed "All that certain Message, **Steel Furnace** and lot of land, containing 100 perches." In 1856 Johnson sold the property, "containing a house, steel furnace and 100 perches of land," to Joel Olphant¹⁰, father of Miss Abbie, for \$800.00, which indicates that the Steel Furnace was no longer in operation.

The Lumberton Foundry Company, located on the old channel at the foot of West Landing Street, was established in 1850 and for many years was the leading industry of Lumberton. John S. Irick was the first president of the company. The writer has seen a photograph of an advertisement that appeared in the "Industrial Directory Advertisement" of 1850, taken by N. R. Ewan, the well-known historian of Moorestown. The advertisement states that the Foundry, established prior to 1850, manufactured Pipe, Stove and Plough Castings, Water Wheels, Window Grates, Fancy Hat and Umbrella Stands, Pots etc. To this list may be added Horse Head Hitching Posts. All the piping for the Brooklyn Water Works was made in this Foundry. The Foundry was destroyed by fire in July, 1869, and was not rebuilt. The location of the Foundry is still known as Foundrytown.

West of Mrs. Budd's property at 10 West Landing Street there formerly stood a mill for pulverizing charcoal. The power was supplied by a horse attached to a treadmill. There were at least two limekilns in the village; the limestone being brought from Pennsylvania by boat. One of these kilns was located at Hunters Wharf, below the bridge on Main Street. The Harmony Volunteer Fire Company preceded the present efficient company on Main Street. It is unfortunate that the old hand-power fire engine and some of the leather buckets

were not preserved. There was at least one tannery in Lumberton in the last century. The Lumberton Post Office was established on August 3, 1848; Edward Thompson being the first Post Master.¹¹

Shipbuilding was an important industry in Lumberton in the nineteenth century. Many sailboats, and at least one steamboat, were built at the "Navy Yard," which was located on the northern side of the Rancocas directly back of the Lumberton Inn on Main Street. According to the late Caleb S. Ridgway, who wrote a very interesting paper about Lumberton, Lumberton Inn was erected in 1800. The steamer Barclay was built in Lumberton in 1849. The Barclay was 120 feet in length and 24 feet in width and made many trips between Lumberton, Hainesport and Philadelphia. Charles Coles of Mount Holly, who was born and raised on a farm near Lumberton, has the original "Enrolment" of the Barclay signed on October 9, 1856. The "Enrolment" definitely states that the steamer was built in Lumberton in 1849. It was owned by the "Rancocas Steamboat Company", of which William Irick was the president.

Caleb Ridgway stated in his manuscript that the steamer "Wave" was the first steamboat to ply between Lumberton and Philadelphia. Other boats built in Lumberton, according to Mr. Ridgway, were the Streamlet, Lydia, George Washington, Hannah, Ann, Angeline, Caroline, and several others. These were mostly sailboats. Mr. Ridgway did not even mention the Barclay.

The manufacturing of infants' and children's footwear was an important industry during the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. According to Woodward and Hageman's History there were four shoe factories in Lumberton during the latter part of the last century. The first was established by Samuel Holland in 1874. The Lumberton Shoe Company, which was conducted by Edward and George F. Ried for many years, was established by their father Edward F. Ried, in 1881. It was located at the northwest corner of Main and Landing Streets and was the largest and most important shoe manufacturing concern in Lumberton. It was discontin-

ued in 1934.

The Lumberton Methodist Church, the oldest religious organization in the village, was established in about 1789. The first church or meeting house, as the Methodists frequently called their houses of worship in the early days, was a one-story frame building that stood in the old graveyard on Church Street. This was replaced by a more pretentious building in 1812. In 1868 a lot was purchased on Main Street, north of the Rancocas, where the present church stands and the building erected in 1812 was moved to this location. The front of the church now standing is the church erected in 1812.

The leading members of the pioneer Church were: Sale Coate, Thomas Smith, Mercy Hough, John and Katurah Moore, Abel and Ann White, William and Martha Brock, Isaac and Ellen Engle, Jonathan and Mahlon Kirkbride. It is interesting to remember that Francis Asbury, the first Methodist Bishop in the United States, preached in Lumberton on May 8, 1813. He visited the community again in the following year, at which time he became seriously ill and was taken to the home of Sale Coate on the road leading to Medford and carefully nursed by the family. This historic house is still standing a little over a mile south of the village, at "Coate's Corner." The present pastor of the Church is the Rev. G. L. Reifsnyder.

The Episcopal Church in Lumberton, St. Martin's-in-the-Field, was originally a Mission under Trinity Episcopal Church of Mount Holly, which formerly stood on the north side of Washington Street, near Main Street. It was founded by Rev. Martin Aignor in 1889. The present attractive Church on the western side of Main Street was erected in 1896. The burying ground or churchyard, as the Episcopalians call their burial places, stands on high ground further south on Main Street.

EAYRESTOWN. The mill property at Eayrestown, which is pleasantly located on the Rancocas nearly two miles above Lumberton, was established by Richard Eayres for whom the village was named. In 1712 a saw-mill was established and a few years later a gristmill. The

mill property was purchased from Richard Eayres by Peter Bard in 1714, who in the following year conveyed it to John Borrowdail.¹²

The brick house standing at the corner of the road through the village and the Elbow Lane Road, now owned by Donald W. Waddell, was erected in 1789 as shown on the eastern gable. It is known as the "Eayres House." Near the old house stands a still older house which is said to have been a tavern at one time. Gordon's Gazetteer, published in 1834, states that the village then contained: one tavern, one sawmill, one gristmill, one store, one cotton factory and 12 or 15 dwelling houses. Barber & Howe's Historical Collections, 1844, calls the factory a fulling mill and states that there were twenty dwellings.

The older residents will remember the pond on the eastern side of the road which was known as "Cedar Lake." The dam gave away during the big flood a few years ago and was never rebuilt. It was a popular bathing place and picnic ground before the dam burst. The saw and gristmill were located on the western side of the road and the home of the miller is still standing at the corner of the road leading to Lumberton. The later gristmill burned in 1912. The original gristmill was burned prior to 1787 as shown by the following advertisement appearing in the Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser on May 9, 1787:

"To be sold at Public Vendue on Seventh Day, May 12th next, on the Premises at Eayres Town, Burlington County, New Jersey, a Saw-Mill in compleat order, a valuable Mill-Seat, the ruins of a Grist-Mill and Merchant Mill (some time since consumed by fire), the dam and water works thereof are in excellent condition, a Pair of Burr Stones, and all the iron for two Mills for merchant and country work; together with about 50 acres of land under cedar fence, whereon are a good dwelling house, two wells of excellent water, stables, a barn, a crib house, a good orchard in prime bearing and some other fruit trees.

The situation is equal to any for country custom and the creek may, with small expense, be made navigable to the mill for boats of considerable burthen. Among other advantages, the dam is maintained by the Public and the stream fully sufficient for three

mills the greatest part of the year.

Hosea Eayres
Richard Edwards
Richard C. Smith

A map discovered by the late Charles S. Boyer a few years ago, shows that General Clinton with part of the British Army passed through Eayrestown on its march from Philadelphia to Monmouth Court House (now Freehold) in June, 1778. Mr. Boyer, a keen historical student, discovered a military map in the Library of Congress, charting the route of part of the British Army under General Clinton from "Penny Hill" through Fostertown, Eayrestown, Mount Holly, Jacksonville, Columbus and Crosswicks to Freehold, near which the Battle of Monmouth was fought on June 28, 1778.

After a careful investigation by Charles Boyer and Harry S. Marvin, an experienced surveyor and engineer, Penny Hill was found to be Mount Laurel, near which village Clinton and his army camped on June 19. The discovery of the map, drawn by John Hills, seems to uphold the tradition that British solders were in Eayrestown during the Revolutionary War.

VINCENTOWN. John Burr, grandson of the pioneer Henry Burr, owned a large farm in Southampton Township, which included the site of Vincenttown. In 1758 he conveyed the land on which Vincenttown stands to James, Philo and Vincent Leeds.¹³ The settlement, first called "Brimstone Neck" and later "Quakertown," received its present name from Vincent Leeds.

Vincenttown is located on the South Branch of Ranco-cas Creek, near its junction with Stop the Jade Run. A good story is told of how the latter received its unique name. An old horse, according to the story, was running along the bank of the stream followed by a group of boys who yelled, Stop the Jade! Stop the Jade!

Anna Leeds, widow of Vincent Leeds, conveyed a lot containing about two acres to the Society of Friends in 1781 for the consideration of five shillings, presumably for a meeting house and graveyard. The first meeting house, said to have been built of logs, was erected on this

lot in 1782. It was succeeded by a brick building in 1813, which the Vincentown Grange purchased in 1911. The Grange purchased the meeting house and lot immediately surrounding it, which, however, did not include the graveyard. They added a second story to the building and afterwards stuccoed it. The date stone was wisely retained and is now on the front of the Hall.

The most prominent early settlers in the neighborhood were the Burr, Leeds, Bishop and Irick families. Of these the Irick family figured largely in the development of the town during the past century. The Iricks came from Holland, arriving at Philadelphia in about 1755 or 1760. The family name was spelled "Eyrich," when Johan and William arrived but was changed to Irick in 1770 by a special act of the Provincial Legislature. Johan (John) came to New Mills, now Pemberton, and lived for a time with Dr. William Budd. He purchased a large farm on the road from Mount Holly to Burlington where the little brick schoolhouse, known as the Irick School, now stands.

John Irick, the pioneer, married, first Mary Sailer in 1761 and second, Mary Shinn in 1781. John and Mary Sailer Irick had two sons, Gen. William and John. William married Margaret Stockton and purchased a large plantation near Vincentown on the road to Retreat. Part of the Irick farm is now owned by Warren G. Evoy, a Camden attorney. The brick house in which the Evoy family lives was erected in 1809 and enlarged in 1833.

William and Margaret Irick had three sons, William, Job and John Stockton. William, Jr., married, first Sarah Heulings and second, Mrs. Sarah Eayre. Job married Matilda Burr and had a son William H., the father of Mary Irick Drexel. John S., who became a Major General in the New Jersey Militia, married Emeline S. Bishop in 1832. John S., and Emeline Irick had three sons, Henry J., Samuel S., and John B. Vincent Irick, now living in Vincentown, is the son of John B. Irick and Clara Moore.¹⁴ Clementine Irick, living in the town, is the daughter of Henry J., and Harriet Irick, who lived on the Irick farm on the road to Retreat.

The late William J. Irick's farm and the two farms now

owned by Emmor Roberts lying west of Vincentown, were formerly known as the "Coaxen Tract." This tract was deeded to the Indians in 1740 by John Wills, son of Dr. Daniel. The Indian village of 'Coaxen' was located on Coaxen Creek, now known as "Little Creek," not far from Senator and Mrs. Roberts' house.

John Brainerd, the Presbyterian Missionary to the Indians, built a log Church near the Indian village, which was afterwards moved to Vincentown and placed near the site of the Railroad Station on North Main Street, where the Francis C. Stokes Canning Factory is now located. After its removal it was known as the "Free Meeting House," as all denominations were free to use it. The first Methodist and Baptist sermons were preached in it by itinerant ministers.

The first Methodist Church was erected in 1830 and stood on Pleasant Street. It is said that Elijah Woolston gave the bricks for the building. A lot had been purchased during the previous year, containing 35/100 of an acre from Asa Rogers.¹⁵ The present church building is of brick and stands on the eastern side of Main Street. The minister in charge of the congregation at the present time is the Rev. H. R. Thompson.

The Baptist Church was organized in the "Free Meeting House" in 1834 and the first church edifice, a plain brick building, was erected in the following year. It stood on the eastern side of Main Street at the corner of Church Street. The first deacons were, Robert Taylor and James Worrell; the first pastor being the Rev. William Smith.¹⁶ The present pastor is the Rev. William M. Childs.

According to Gordon's Gazetteer, 1834, Vincentown then contained: 1 sawmill, 1 gristmill, 2 taverns, 4 stores, 1 Quaker Meeting House, 1 house of worship free to all Protestant denominations and 30 or 40 dwelling houses. Barber and Howe's Historical Collections, 1844, also lists a Baptist and a Methodist Church, a Select School and a tannery. The sawmill was located back of the Vincentown Library, given to the people by Mary Stretch Irick Drexel. The library building stands at the corner of

Main and Race Streets. The millrace leading to the pond has been filled and is scarcely traceable at the present time.

The first gristmill, which stood on the site of General John Irick's mill on the northern side of Mill Street, west of the creek, was erected by Joseph Burr, Jr., in 1812. The race, from which it received its power, leading to the pond south of Race Street, is still in existence. The mill pond is a favorite place for swimming and skating. A tannery stood nearly opposite Irick's gristmill on Mill Street in the early days.

The oldest house in the neighborhood of Vincenttown is located on the Harry Hughes farm, about two miles from the town on the road leading to Pemberton. The western section was built by John and Martha Hollinshead in 1786 and the eastern end by David and Sarah Peacock in 1812. It is marked on the western gable in

H

black header bricks: J M, standing for John and
1786

P

Martha Hollinshead and on the eastern: D S. Sarah
1812

Peacock was the daughter of John and Martha Hollinshead. While living on the farm David Peacock experimented with improving the iron plow in the blacksmith shop on the farm. In 1807 he was granted several patents but it is incorrect to state that he was the inventor of the cast iron plow as Charles Newbold, of Chesterfield Township, was granted a patent in 1797 for an iron plow cast in one piece. David Peacock afterwards moved to Chairville about two miles east of Medford.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 21

- ¹ Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, First Series, Vol. 6, pp. 15-19.
- ² County Clerk's Office, Book F, 401.
- ³ N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 372. Revel, 111.
- ⁴ Ibid, 467n.
- ⁵ Ibid, 361. Revel, 70.
- ⁶ Besse's Book of Surveys, 36. Secretary of State's Office, Trenton.

- 7 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 361. Revel 71.
- 8 County Clerk's Office, Book X, 309.
- 9 Ibid, Book R2, p. 84.
- 10 Ibid, Book Y5, p. 75.
- 11 Woodward and Hageman, 58.
- 12 Ibid, 347.
- 13 Historical Facts about Vincentown, by S. Jarrett Woolman. Mount Holly Herald, August 26, 1932.
- 14 Genealogical and Memorial History of New Jersey, by Francis Bazley Lee. Vol. 2, p. 485.
- 15 Woodward and Hageman, 427.
- 16 Ibid, 429.

Chapter 22

INDIAN LORE

THE large number of Indian relics that have been found in the Valley of the Rancocas would indicate the presence of many Indian villages or camps before the arrival of the white men. The Indians of Burlington County belonged to the Lenni Lenape Tribe, which was subdivided into three main tribes, the Minsi of north Jersey, the Unami of the central part of the state and the Unilachtigo of the southern. The natives living on the Rancocas and tributaries, generally speaking, were Unamis. The traditions of these tribes are well told by Richard Adams, a full-blooded Lenape, in the following verses:

MINSI — TOTEM, A WOLF

The Wolf Band comes from children
Whom a she-wolf nursed with care,
And thus restored the children
Who were given up in despair.

Her wailing brought the hunters
To the babes where they lay;
So the band among the people
Is the Wolf Clan of today.

UNAMI — TOTEM, A TURTLE

When the waters were so mighty
As to reach the mountain high,
And it seemed that all creation
Surely then was doomed to die,

Came a turtle to the rescue,
Brought us safely unto land,
For the Manitou had sent him;
Now we're called the Turtle Clan.



Log Stable, Bull's Head Road, near Lumberton. Early 18th century.
 Photograph by N. R. Ewan.



Joseph Moore House, Bull's Head Road, near Lumberton, 1754.
 Photograph by N. R. Ewan.

UNILACHTIGO — TOTEM, A TURKEY

When the tribe was once in danger
A wild turkey gave alarm,
And the warriors met the foemen
With the fury of a storm.

To a maiden in a vision
Did the turkey show the plan,
And we call all her descendants
To this day, the Turkey Clan.

Passing up the South Branch through Hainesport and Lumberton to the neighborhood of Vincenttown we come to the land of the Coaxen Indians, who occupied a territory now in Southampton Township. It is interesting to remember that when the township was set apart from Northampton by an Act of the Legislature on March 1, 1845, it was named "Coaxen Township,"¹ the name being changed to Southampton a month later by a Supplementary Act.

The principal village of the Coaxen Indians was located on the eastern bank of Little Creek, called Coaxen by the natives; undoubtedly on the farm now owned by former Senator Emmor Roberts. Coaxen village was located about a mile and a half west of Vincenttown. The small run skirting the Roberts' farm on the east was called "Weepink" by the natives. The Indian village was located on a tract of land conveyed by John Wills, son of Dr. Daniel, in 1740 to "the children of the late Indian King Opollonwhen, late of the township of Northampton . . . and to his two brothers, called by the names of Teunis and Moonis . . . and in consideration of the sum of four shillings . . . so long as the water runs in the river Delaware and Rancocas or Northampton rivers."²

The survey, recorded in the Surveyor General's Office at Burlington, dated July 10, 1740, reads in part:

"Beginning on the south side of the Middle Branch of Northampton River at a Maple marked BURR, being corner to the land of John Burr and is at the Mouth of a Small Runn of water emptying itself into said River."

This tract lay to the west of Vincenttown and comprised the farms of the late William J. Irick and Senator Roberts. John Brainerd, the saintly Presbyterian missionary to the West Jersey Indians, erected a log meeting house at the Indian village of Coaxen in about 1765 which was the first place of worship in the neighborhood of Vincenttown. Here Brainerd preached to large gatherings of Indians and white people. Brainerd was then stationed at the Indian Reservation at Indian Mills, which was appropriately called Brotherton. The little church, which I believe stood on the Roberts farm, was moved to Vincenttown after John Brainerd's death in 1781. It was known as the "Free Meeting House," as its doors were ever open to all Protestant denominations who believed in the Divinity of Christ. It was eventually moved to Freedom and used as a schoolhouse until 1871 when it was consumed by fire.

There was an Indian burying ground on William J. Irick's farm on the Rancocas west of Vincenttown, which doubtless was a burial place of the Coaxen Indians. The late Mr. Irick told the writer several years ago that the burying ground was not far from his residence. The number of Indian relics that have been found on the Irick farm suggests that there were a number of Indian camps along the Rancocas west of Vincenttown.

Parts of the farms now owned by Emmor Roberts, Albert H. Forsythe and Ezra Evans originally was the Thomas Evans plantation. The tract was surveyed for Thomas Evans, son of William Evans, the progenitor of the family in Burlington County, in 1691. The abstract of survey, dated June 27, 1691, reads:³

"For Thomas Evans a tract of land at an Indian town called Quoexin from a white oak by one of ye branches of Ancokus Creek."

Surveyed for 400 acres.

The deed for this plantation refers to it as being on a stream named "Quoexin." Thomas Evans' will, dated May 2, 1692,⁴ mentions "400 acres at Coexing". It is probable that the correct spelling of the word was "Quoexing," as the Unami Indians usually ended their words with the suffix ing, ong, unk or ink. Indian place names

necessarily vary in their spelling as it was exceedingly difficult to express their language in English. It is to be regretted that more Indian place names have not been retained as they add color to any community and generally speaking are euphonious. To illustrate "Mattacopany Creek" is more attractive than "Barker's Brook," the present name of the stream that passes the old Quaker meeting house east of Jacksonville.

The writer is very anxious to know the Indian name of the South Branch of the Rancocas. In searching the records of the Lumberton and Eayrestown neighborhoods I occasionally have noted the name "Meshequoexing," which may have been the Indian name for the South Branch. The prefix "meshe" or "mishe" meant large or big and as the stream now called "Little Creek" was the Quoexing of Indian days, it is not illogical to assume that the natives called the main stream that flows through Lumberton the "Meshequoexing."

The most important find of Indian relics in recent years was the uncovering of a firepit on the Edwin Crispin farm, about two and half miles from Masonville on the Foster-town road. Mr. Crispin instructed an employee to bring a load of dirt from a certain mound on the creek, a tributary of the Rancocas. When the dirt was dumped in his yard he noticed a number of banner stones and other Indian relics roll out of the dirt. He phoned to the University of Pennsylvania and the Museum sent E. W. Hawkes and Ralph Linton to excavate the mound.

They uncovered a firepit around which were circles of caches containing banner stones, axes, arrow heads etc. The caches nearest to the firepit contained the finest specimens, showing that the chiefs sat near the fire. Five to seven feet below the surface in a stratum of white glacial sand, a number of crude argillite implements were found upholding Dr. Charles Abbott's theory that New Jersey was occupied by a pre-Lenape tribe of Indians.⁵

The most colorful native of our county was "Indian Ann," the last of the Delawares, who died in her little frame house near Indian Mills in 1894. She was buried

in the Methodist Graveyard at Tabernacle. The Burlington County Historical Society has erected a suitable stone marker on her grave.⁶ N. R. Ewan recently located her grave.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 22

¹ Woodward and Hageman, 418-419.

² Ibid, 419-429. The tract was surveyed for John Wills on July 10, 1740 and recorded in the Surveyor General's Office in Burlington, Book BB of Surveys, 59. Benjamin A. Sleeper, Surveyor General, kindly furnished the writer with a plot of the tract.

³ N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 374. Revel, 117.

⁴ N. J. A. Vol. XXIII, 157.

⁵ A Pre-Lenape Site. Pamphlet, Published by the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

⁶ See Chapter 26 concerning Indian Ann.

Chapter 23

MEDFORD AND VICINITY

THE Township of Medford, in which Medford is now located, was set apart from Evesham by Act of Legislature on February 4, 1847. The first township meeting was held at Cross Roads on March 9 of that year. Cross Roads, the seat of the township government for several years, is located a mile north of Medford and contained at the time that Medford Township was organized a Methodist Church, a store, a tavern and perhaps a dozen houses. Dr. James Still, the celebrated Negro doctor, whose salves and ointments are said to have cured many ills, lived at Cross Roads for many years and acquired considerable property.

Medford Township was settled by Friends in the last quarter of the 17th century. The Haines, Austin, Brad-dock, Wilkins, Prickett and Ballinger families were among the first settlers. The Haines brothers, John, Richard, William, Thomas and Joseph, sons of the pioneers Richard and Margaret Haines, all married and settled in old Evesham Township. The father, Richard, died on the ship Amity during the voyage to this country. The brothers all had sons and there are many bearing the name Haines in the county at the present time. Maurice W., and Everett H. Haines, leading business men of Medford, are descended from Richard and Mary Carlile Haines.

John Haines, the eldest brother, settled on the south side of the South Branch of Rancocas Creek, below Lumberton, in 1683. His plantation of 200 acres extended southward 80 chains or one mile. He made additional purchases of land in the neighborhood from time to time, one of which was located at Kirby's Mills, formerly known as Haines Mills. The farm remained in the Haines family until 1919 when George R. Haines sold it to Frederick Tschirner, the present owner. Part of Mr. Tschirner's house, near the village on the Masonville Road, was

built in 1720 and enlarged by Joseph Haines in 1808. It is an exceedingly interesting old house. A gristmill and a sawmill were erected near the site of the present gristmill at a very early date.

Haines Creek, on which the town of Medford is located, was charted on Faden's Map of New Jersey, 1777, as "Bally Bridge Creek" and was called by the Indians "Cotoxen Creek." The stream is still called Cotoxen and I believe that the Kirby Brothers, who own the gristmill, call the pond on which it stands "Lake Cotoxen." The bridge over the creek on Elbow Lane Road is known as "Belly Bridge," which is undoubtedly a corruption of Bally Bridge. There are a number of towns in Ireland whose names begin with "Bally" and it is probable that an early settler from Ireland so named the creek. Richard C. Woodward, of Bordentown, has a fine tall clock made by Joseph Gordon, Bally Money, Ireland.

The name, Medford, is said to have been given to the village by Mark Reeve early in the 19th century. Mr. Reeve, who was a storekeeper and a manufacturer of nails in Upper Evesham, visited Medford, Massachusetts, and was so favorably impressed with the town that when he returned to his home community he earnestly advocated changing the name of the town to Medford. The suggestion met with favor and when the Post Office was established in 1820 the town was officially called Medford. Tradition says that Mark Reeve made the first cut nails in the United States but this claim cannot be verified. It is possible that he manufactured the first nails in the county.

Medford is not closely associated with the events of the Revolutionary War as it was not located on the line of march of either of the contending armies. The iron furnaces located at Medford Lakes and Taunton, however, manufactured cannon balls and other war materials for the Patriot Army. Charles S. Boyer states in his valuable book "Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey" that cannon were also made at Taunton Furnace. Etna Furnace at Medford Lakes and Taunton Furnace, established by Charles Read in 1766 or 1767, were the leading

industries in the neighborhood of Medford during the Revolutionary period. Taunton Furnace is charted as "Read's Mill" on Faden's Map, 1777.

At the time of the Revolution Upper Evesham was a straggling village of a few houses strung along Main Street which follows the general course of the old Shamong Trail. Gordon's Gazetteer, 1834, states that the village then contained a large Quaker Meeting House, two taverns, four stores and thirty or forty houses. Barber and Howe, 1844, mentions a Baptist Church, a Methodist Church, a bank and two Friends Meeting Houses: the Baptist Church, Bank and the Friends Meeting House on Main Street having been erected since 1834.

The tragic story of Adonijah Peacock, whose home was located about one mile southeast of Medford also tends to bring the neighborhood into the Revolutionary picture. He manufactured gun powder for the American Army and when drying some powder in the kitchen of his home he placed it too near the stove with the result that it exploded killing him instantly. The following extract from John Hunt's Diary, under date of January 20, 1777, will prove interesting:

"This day Nijah Peacock was buried, a very Ingenous man in Evesham he had since the wars began Erected a powder mill and Carryed it on to Considerable perfection till one day he was at work amongst his powder and by Some means it Catchd fire and kild him and hurt several of his family Besides it was said that the Rhoof of the house was blown off and very much Shattered to pieces with the Blast of the powder. (Report heard for ten miles around)"

He was buried in the old graveyard at Chairville, his headstone being inscribed:

Adonijah Peacock
Born August 5, 1724.
Killed while making powder for
Gen. Washington, 1777.

There are a number of interesting old gravestones in this burying ground, made of brick clay, many of which mark the graves of the Prickett and Peacock families. Chairville, located nearly two miles east of Medford, was

at one time an active village, as the chair factory from which it received its name, employed a good many workers.

The gristmills and sawmills of the neighborhood were important industries in the early days. Oliphant's Gristmill was located a good mile southwest of Medford on the road to Taunton and on a tributary of Haines Creek. The mill is said to have been established by David Oliphant before the Revolution. The writer visited the site of the mills in 1934, near Samuel Hinchman's house, and Mr. Hinchman pointed out to me exactly where the mill stood. He was the last owner and operator of the gristmill.

The story of the Quaker meetings in Medford is largely the story of the community as most of the early settlers were members of the Religious Society of Friends. The Friends meeting houses were the only places of public worship in old Evesham Township, which formerly included Medford and Mount Laurel, until 1805 when the Baptists erected a church at Eves Causeway, east of Marlton. The first meeting house in old Evesham was erected in 1698 at Mount Laurel on or near the site of the stone building now standing. Medford Friends probably drove or rode horseback to Evesham, now Mount Laurel, until 1761 when the first meeting for worship was established in Upper Evesham.

Friends meetings for worship were established in Medford, formerly Upper Evesham, in the schoolhouse "near Robert Braddock" in 1761 as shown by the following minute of Evesham Monthly Meeting, dated 12th Mo, 1760:

"Friends from ye preparative meeting at Evesham request that a meeting for worship might be held at ye Schoolhouse near Robert Braddocks, on ye first first Day and on ye Second Sixth Day in each month: which was granted untill our general Spring meeting next."

This was an "Indulged Meeting" until 1782 when the Preparative Meeting of Upper Evesham was established. The pioneer Robert Braddock arrived from England in 1702 and in 1709 married Elizabeth Hancock, daughter of Timothy Hancock who settled on Pensauken Creek near Moorestown. Robert Braddock died in 1714 and his

son Robert conveyed one acre of land to Hugh Sharp and others for the use of the meeting on February 22, 1759. It must have been on this acre, which includes part of the graveyard, that the schoolhouse was erected in which the first Friends meetings were held.

In 1782 Hugh Sharp, the only surviving trustee, conveyed the said acre to John Haines, Jr. Daniel Braddock, Job Collins, Joseph Sharp, Josiah Stratton and Joshua Owen, named by the meeting to take title to the property.

The following minute of Evesham Monthly Meeting, dated 12th mo, 1782, conclusively shows that Upper Evesham Preparative Meeting was established at that time:

"Most of the committee appointed in consequence of a request made by this Meeting respecting the establishment of a Meeting for worship at upper Evesham now attended; and informed that they had a solid opportunity with Friends of that Meeting & are united in Judgment that it may be for the benefit of Society that not only a Meeting for Worship but also a preparative Meeting be Established there; which after mature deliberation, this Meeting unites with the Judgment of the said Committee therein."

Upper Evesham Monthly Meeting was established in Twelfth Month, 1793, and the first session held on First Month 11, 1794. It was composed of Upper Evesham, Cropwell and New Hopewell Preparative Meetings. Cropwell Preparative Meeting was established in 1794 and New Hopewell in 1805. New Hopewell Meeting was located about four miles southeast of Berlin, near Florence Station on the Philadelphia and Reading, Atlantic City Division. The writer, accompanied by William Bacon Evans, visited the burying ground in 1938 and found it a deserted spot in the pines. The meeting house, 24 feet square, was erected in 1799 and afterwards sold to Job Norcross who removed it from the lot.

The old frame meeting house that stood south of the brick building on Union Street, Medford, is said to have been built as an "ell" to the schoolhouse "near Robert Braddocks." It served the Friends of the neighborhood until 1814 when the present substantial and attractive brick meeting house was erected at a total cost of \$4,550.61. On Second Month 25, 1813, a committee was ap-

pointed to provide materials and to report at a later meeting. The committee reported in the Ninth Month, 1813, "that they were generally united in proposing the building of a meeting house 42 by 74 feet."

The well-kept graveyard adjoining the meeting house yard contains the graves of many of the early settlers. The oldest section of the graveyard, where the quaint red grave stones are located, is probably part of the acre conveyed to the meeting by Robert Braddock in 1759. The oldest headstone is marked "M S 1759" and another "F M or T M" 1760." The former doubtless marks the resting place of Mark Stratton who died on Fourth 2, 1759. One could spend an interesting hour wandering around the old graveyard—especially those who are descended from the pioneer settlers.

It should be remembered that Union Street was not surveyed when the meeting house was erected in 1814. The old road to Marlton was located south of the meeting house and joined the present road at "Shinn Town," which was located at the cross roads a good mile west of Medford. Charles S. Boyer, who made a close study of the taverns of Burlington County, said that this tiny hamlet was so named because a man named Shinn kept a tavern at this place in the early days. Friend Street, in all probability, was part of the old road to "Shinn Town" and Marlton.

The story of the schools under the care of the Upper Evesham Preparative Meeting cannot be fully told here. I have already referred to the schoolhouse "near Robert Braddock," which was built prior to 1760. It was undoubtedly a Friends School, though not officially under the care of the meeting. The Meeting established a school prior to 1783. In that year Joshua Owen, Joseph Wilcox, John Haines and Job Collins were appointed to have the care and oversight of the Preparative Meeting Schools. The old schoolhouse stood on or near the site of the frame building back of the meeting house on Union Street, formerly a schoolhouse, but now used as the Quarterly Meeting lunch room.

At the time of the separation in the Society of Friends

in 1827-8, the "Orthodox" Friends retained possession of the meeting property on Union Street and shortly afterwards the "Hicksites" established a separate meeting. The "Hicksite" Meeting House, an attractive brick building erected in 1842, is located on the eastern side of Main Street and is reached by a lane from that highway. Meetings for worship are regularly held in both meeting houses.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was the second branch of the Christian Church to be established in Medford. The first services were held in the home of William Sharp near Chairville in about 1816. The first class was formed in 1821¹ by Rev. John Walker and the services were held in a log dwelling house which was located on the road leading to Medford Lakes, south of Haines Creek. The names of the earliest members of the Class were: William Cheeseman, Hope Cheeseman, Isaac Carson, Elizabeth Carson, John Adams, Mary Adams and John Carrigan.

The original church building, 24 by 30 feet in size, was erected in 1824 and enlarged during the winter of 1827-8, when the Rev. Thomas S. Stewart conducted a series of Revival Meetings. The present Church on Branch Street was erected in 1854 and remodelled in about 1896. The Rev. C. S. McCleave is minister at the present time.

Although the first Baptist Church in old Evesham Township was established in 1805, the Medford Church was not organized until 1841.² A small frame church was erected at the eastern end of Bank Street in 1842; the Rev. James M. Carpenter being the first pastor. In 1893 this little building was moved to another location and the present church erected. It is also located on Bank Street. The first deacons were: Joseph Evans, Isaac P. Dyer, Charles T. Peacock and Eli Evans. The present pastor is the Rev. Walter F. Rogers.

St. Peters Episcopal Church on Union Street, west of the Friends Graveyard, was formerly a Mission of St. Andrews, Mount Holly. It was established as a Mission in about 1875. The church edifice is an attractive Gothic structure. The present rector is the Rev. Howard S.

Frazer.

The Burlington County National Bank has faithfully served the community for more than one hundred years.³ It was organized in 1837 when the country was in the midst of a disastrous panic. It was organized as The Burlington County Bank but changed to a National Bank in 1865. The first directors were: Benjamin Davis, Caleb Shreve, Isaac Stokes, Samuel B. Finch, Benjamin H. Lippincott, William Stokes, William Braddock, Dr. George Haines, William Irick and Ebenezer Tucker. Benjamin Davis was chosen President and Caleb Shreve Treasurer at the first meeting of the Board.

The Bank was conducted in C. & B. Shreve's store until the present bank building at the corner of Main and Bank Streets was erected. The lot on which Bank stands was purchased from John Stokes for \$1,000. The presidents of the Bank have been: Benjamin Davis, Benjamin Shreve, William Irick, James S. Hulme, Franklin C. Doughten, Abram P. Stackhouse, Henry P. Thorn and William D. Cowperthwaite, who is the present incumbent. Henry P. Thorn served as president for thirty-six years. Jonathan Oliphant was the first cashier.

Indian Chief Hotel, located at the northwest corner of Main and Union Streets was erected by Richard Reeve in 1810⁴ and is one of the most interesting landmarks in Medford. It is the oldest tavern in the town and on the arrival and departure of the stage-coach it was the scene of great activity. The second tavern in Medford, erected in 1823, stood on the eastern side where the Medford Hotel now stands. It was owned by Daniel Coates in 1842 when it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Coates immediately rebuilt it. N. R. Ewan, of Moorestown, called the writer's attention to the fact that the porch pillars were made at Batsto Furnace, one of Charles Read's many enterprises. The letter B is stamped on the base of each pillar.

Medford is located in a rich agricultural section and is perhaps the center of the cranberry industry. The first cranberry bog was established by William R. Braddock in 1850⁵ and was located in the neighborhood of Med-

ford. The cranberry is a native berry and was enjoyed by the Indians and pioneer settlers. Mahlon Stacy, the first settler at the Falls of the Delaware (Trenton), wrote a letter to his brother Revell in England on the "26th of 4th month 1680," in which he said, when referring to cranberries: "The cranberries much like cherries for colour and bigness, which may be kept till fruit come in again; an excellent sauce is made of them for venison, turkeys and other great fowl, and they are better to make tarts than either gooseberries or cherries; we have them brought to our houses by the Indians in great plenty." It would seem that the succulent cranberry sauce was enjoyed by our forefathers.

Samuel Thackara, the Medford bard, who lived at Fairview, formerly known as Cross Keys, tells of the products of the neighborhood in humorous verses of which I will quote a few:⁶

"New Jersey state cannot be beat
In anything—not even wheat;
It really beats all creation
In variety of vegetation.

Our land with marl is underlaid,
A fertilizer that nature made;
It beats all fertilizer makers,
For one rod makes rich a dozen acres.

We have five feet wheat and six feet rye,
And corn has grown so very high,
That huskers are entertaining fears,
They will not be able to reach the ears.

Apples, peaches, plums and cherries,
Water melons and huckleberries;
Cranberries for making pies and tarts,
Which we also ship to foreign parts.

The delicious strawberries and pears,
Take highest premium at our fairs;
The grapes also are very fine,
Enough to eat and making wine."

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 23

¹ Woodward and Hageman, 367.

² Ibid, 368.

³ This sketch is based on the Pamphlet entitled "One Hundred Years of Service," published in 1937.

⁴ Woodward and Hageman, 363.

⁵ Surveyors Association, 153-4.

⁶ The original verses may be seen at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 13th & Locust Streets, Philadelphia.

Chapter 24

NAVIGATION ON THE RANCOCAS

THE story of navigation on the Rancocas from the days of the Indian dugout canoe to the opening of the Railroad from Mount Holly to Camden in 1867 is exceptionally interesting. Until the second quarter of the 18th century transportation was almost entirely by carrier, horseback or boat. When the ferry was established between Burlington and Bristol in 1714¹ the rates were given for "Man and horse, Ox, Cow or Steere, Single person, Sheep or Dog" but no mention is made of a vehicle of any description. Nor was the rate given for a horse-drawn vehicle when John Inian' Ferry was established at New Brunswick two years later.

The first record of a charge for a vehicle of any kind was when the ferry was established over the Rancocas at Bridgeboro in 1748. A charge was made for a "Chaise, Chair or Sleigh, if drawn by one horse 9 pence, two horses one shilling."

So great was the value of water-ways to the pioneer that in 1682 the West Jersey Assembly passed an Act prohibiting any person from taking up more than forty perches frontage on a navigable stream for each one hundred acres, "except it fall upon a point so that it cannot otherwise be avoided; and in such cases it shall be left to the discretion of the Commissioners for the time being." Nor were persons allowed to take up land on the opposite sides of the stream. That accounts for the fact that the early surveys were long and narrow.

The Indian dugout canoe, made from a solid log, was capable of carrying heavy loads. William Penn in a letter written in 1683 said: "I have a canoe of one tree yt (that) fetches four tunnes of bricks." There is, or was about fifteen years ago, an excellent specimen of an Indian dugout in the Hackensack Museum and also one in the Mercer Museum at Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

The scow followed the dugout for carrying merchandise. It was a flat bottomed boat with square ends and steered by a rudder. The propelling power was a large sweep on each side of the boat which were worked by brawny men. These crude boats carried the farmer's produce, lumber and charcoal to the Philadelphia market in pioneer days. Logs were floated down the stream with the tide. All dams were built with log gates in the early days. Landings were established at advantageous points from Mount Holly on the North Branch and Lumberton on the South. The most important landings were located at Mount Holly, Centerton, Irish Wharf and Bridgeboro on the main stream and Lumberton and Long Bridge (Hainesport) on the South Branch.

The scow was succeeded by shallops, sloops and snows. The shallop, according to the dictionary, is an "open boat; especially a rowboat for two oarsmen." The sloop was a single-masted sailing vessel of broad beam, while the snow was two-masted and square rigged. Probably the sloop predominated on the Rancocas. Undoubtedly the Rancocas carried more water before the forests were cut off or destroyed by the forest fires but even allowing for a larger volume of water it is difficult to understand how a sailboat could travel up the winding Rancocas as far as Lumberton or Mount Holly. Lumberton was the head of navigation on the South Branch and Mount Holly on the North.

The commerce on the Rancocas was very large before the opening of the Railroad to Camden in 1867. In addition to the products of the farm and lumber, the output of the Bog Iron Furnaces were added during the last half of the 18th century. Lumberton was a very important shipping point and many vessels were built there.

The late Howard C. Darnell, of Moorestown, had the original Bill of Sale of the sailing vessel, the Good Intent, dated "Third Month 21, 1817." The document records the sale of the vessel by Isaac Engle and Joseph Reed to Edmund Darnell and Isaac Fenimore for the consideration of "fifteen hundred and seventy-five dollars." The document reads in part:

"That Shallop or Vessel, called the good Intent now trading out of the Rancocas in the said county of Burlington, and having one Deck, one Mast, Length fifty two feet eight inches; Breadth eighteen feet Six inches; Depth four feet and Measures (weighs) Thirty Tuns (and twelve ninety fifths) etc."

This is the best description of a sailing vessel which plied the waters of the Rancocas that the writer has ever read. They evidently were not very long and drew but little water. However, the Bill of Sale would seem to indicate that a shallop was a sailing vessel rather than a rowboat, as stated in the dictionary.

Mr. Darnell also possessed his grandfather David Darnell's chest which is marked: "David Darnell, Evesham, Care of the Steamer Wave." David Darnell's farm was located at the intersection of the Mount Laurel-Hainesport Road and the road leading to Hartford. It is about the same distance to Hainesport as it is to Centerton but in all probability he used the landing at Hainesport, as it was the more direct route. This was the original Darnell farm and it remained in the Darnell family for more than two hundred years. J. Harvey Darnell was the last owner of the name.

The sloops Water Witch, Salinda and later the Kansas, all of Lumberton, are mentioned in the Irick Papers, now in possession of the Burlington County Historical Society, as having sailed on the South Branch. Of these the Water Witch is the best known. It was sold by William Ridgway, of Philadelphia, to William Irick in 1839 for \$400.00. The Bill of Sale said: "Which said Vessel is enrolled in the Port of Mountholly . . . in the words following, to wit:"

"Enrolment in conformity to an Act of Congress of the United States of America, entitled An Act for enrolling and licensing Ships or Vessels to be employed in the Coasting Trade and Fisheries, and for regulating the same."

Signed by William Irick.

The Water Witch was built in Bridgeboro in 1831, as shown by a former "Enrolment made in 1835. Said Ship or Vessel has one Deck and one Mast and that her Length is sixty feet . . . her Breadth twenty one feet, her Depth

three feet, and that she measures (weighs) thirty one & 31/95 . . . Tons." Other sailing vessels that plied the waters of the South Branch, mentioned by Caleb S. Ridgway, were the Streamlet, Lydia, George Washington, Hannah, Ann, Angeline and Caroline.

The dredging of the Rancocas received the attention of the authorities as early as 1795—long before the advent of the steamboat on the creek. The County Historical Society has in its possession a certificate showing that John Bishop was a subscriber to a company for the improvement of the North Branch. It is dated August 8, 1795, and reads: "These are to Certify that John Bishop was a Subscriber to a Company for improving Navigation of the North Branch of Rancocus Creek." The certificate was for one share and was signed by John Lacey, President.

On January 21, 1817, the Legislature passed an "Act to clear out navigation of the North Branch of Rancocas Creek between the town of Mount Holly and the South main branch of said creek in the County of Burlington." This act was limited to two years and on February 16, 1819, it was reinstated. The money was to be raised by lottery.

The year 1823 marks the beginning of steam navigation on the Rancocas. This was only sixteen years after Robert Fulton's "Clermont" steamed up the Hudson and thirty-five years after John Fitch steamed from Philadelphia to Burlington carrying passengers. Quoting from Wheaton J. Lane's, *From Indian Trail to Iron Horse*:² "In 1823 the Norristown, a small vessel formerly used as Ferry Boat at Camden, steamed between Philadelphia and the various landings on Rancocas Creek." This statement is corroborated by Woodward and Hageman, with the additional information that John Gardner was the captain.³ The Norristown, which I believe was the first steamer on the Rancocas, apparently did not remain long on the creek.

The Steamer LaFayette made its appearance on the Rancocas in 1824. According to Woodward and Hageman, the "Mount Holly and Rancocas Steamboat Com-

pany," George Heywood, Secretary, was organized in 1824 and the LaFayette built. Dr. Zachariah Read in his "Annals of Old Mount Holly," written in 1859, states that the LaFayette was built at Hazelhurst's Wharf on Water Street.

Quoting again from Lane's valuable book:⁴ "The next year (1824) the leading citizens of Mount Holly organized a Company which operated the LaFayette over the same route. Trips were made semi-weekly and through fare of fifty cents was charged, which included a stage ride of four miles between Mount Holly and Hilliards Wharf. The venture did not attract sufficient patronage and the LaFayette was sold at auction in 1826." This account is corroborated by Woodward and Hageman, who suggest that it was withdrawn because it drew too much water for the stream.

Heston, however, gives a different account of the LaFayette.⁵ He states "that the steamer made three trips a week between Philadelphia and Salem in 1825." The farmers around Salem opposed the running of a steamer to Philadelphia as they feared that it would be detrimental to their business. Quoting again from Heston's South Jersey, a History: "In consequence of the great opposition and even open hostility to a steamboat in Salem, the proprietors of the LaFayette have determined to withdraw her and run to Mount Holly." Doubtless the steamer was so named because the popular General visited the United States in 1824.

The steamboat Band-Box succeeded the LaFayette and the Mayflower followed the Band-Box.⁶ The steamer Barclay, made in Lumberton in 1849, navigated the South Branch for many years. The vessel was 120 feet in length and 24 feet in width.⁷ It made many trips between Lumberton or Hainesport and Philadelphia. It was withdrawn from the Rancocas in the early 1870's and sent to the seashore. I was chatting with a friend eighty-five years old recently, who was born and raised in the village of Rancocas, who distinctly remembers riding on the Barclay with his father when a small boy.

The steamboat Independence was on the Rancocas at

the same time as the Barclay, according to the following advertisement of the Rancocas Steamboat Company, dated August 19, 1845:⁸

"The Steamboat Barclay and Independence are making regular trips between Lumberton and Philadelphia for the conveyance of Passengers, Produce etc, as follows—

The Barclay leaves Lumberton every morning (Sundays excepted) at 6 o'clock and New Long Bridge (Hainesport) at 6½ o'clock, stopping at Centerton, Irish Wharf, Bridgeborough, Bridesburg and Brownings Ferry. Returning leaves Arch Street Wharf, Philadelphia, at 2 o'clock P. M. stopping at the above named places. The Independence leaves Arch Street, Philadelphia, at 7½ o'clock A. M. Returning leaves Lumberton at 3½ o'clock, stopping at the above named places."

Stages met the boats at New Long Bridge and Lumberton to convey passengers to Mount Holly, Greenwood (near Pemberton), Browns Mills, Vincenttown, Pemberton, and Medford. The fare to Lumberton and Mount Holly 25 cents from Philadelphia and to Greenwood or Browns Mills 75 cents.

The steamer Rancocas is said to have followed the Barclay and Independence. It was mentioned in the Irick Papers in 1854. The steamboats Clara and Fleetwing were on the North Branch in 1876 and the 1890's. There is a good picture of the Clara in Scott's Atlas, 1876. The next steamboat, of which the writer has any knowledge, was the Annie L. VanSciver, whom the older generation will remember. It was built in 1902 and owned by George R. VanSciver, who probably named it in honor of his wife. It remained on the Rancocas for about ten years and then was sold and sent to Maine.

The Shearwater succeeded the Annie L., as the vessel was generally called. It was owned by George R. VanSciver. It was a higher and narrower boat than the Annie L. and unfortunately "turned turtle" at Arch Street Wharf in Philadelphia; the cargo being almost a complete loss to Mr. Van Sciver.⁹

The steamboat has vanished from the Rancocas almost as completely as the Indian Canoe and today the only boats that disturb its placid waters are the Canoe or



Eayres House, Eayrestown, 1789. Photograph by N. R. Ewan.



Vincentown Friends Meeting House, 1813. The first meeting house stood on the same lot and was erected in 1782.

Motorboat of the pleasure seeker.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 24

- ¹ Allinson's Laws, 30.
- ² Wheaton J. Lane, 211.
- ³ Woodward and Hageman, 521.
- ⁴ Wheaton J. Lane, 211.
- ⁵ South Jersey, a History, by A. M. Heston. Vol. 1, pp. 75-76.
- ⁶ Woodward and Hageman, 521.
- ⁷ See Chapter 21 under the heading "Lumberton."
- ⁸ I am indebted to N. R. Ewan for a copy of this advertisement.
There were evidently two Steamers "Barclay" which navigated the Rancocas but the writer never heard of but one.
- ⁹ The late Bertram M. Thomas, of Moorestown, who was associated with the Warner Sand Company, furnished the writer with data about the Annie L. VanSciver and the Shearwater.

Chapter 25

PIONEER SETTLERS

THE historic background of the Rancocas Valley is decidedly Quaker. Practically all of the early arrivals in these communities were members of the Religious Society of Friends. Generally speaking the pioneer settlers were of the middle class, judged by the standards of the 17th century. Very few could write "Gentleman" after their names. They were sturdy, self-reliant and God-fearing men and women and were well qualified to establish homes in the wilderness of West Jersey. They were classified as yeomen (freeholders), farmers, bricklayers, carpenters, blacksmiths, cordwainers (workers in leather), weavers, coopers, masons, millwrights, tailors; a few being recorded as laborers. Yeomen ranked next to gentlemen.

Many of the immigrants had been in prison "for conscience sake" and not a few of their relatives and friends had died in the loathsome jails of that period. They had emigrated to America not so much to escape persecution in England as to found a colony where all could worship God according to the dictates of conscience. As early as 1660 the leaders of the Friends in the British Isles had looked for a tract in America where they could establish a colony that would be governed by Quaker ideals.

The early settlers on the northern side of the Rancocas were exceptionally intelligent. Thomas Olive, Benjamin Scott and Dr. Daniel Wills were Commissioners named by the West Jersey Proprietors to purchase land from the Indians and establish a proprietary government under the Concessions and Agreements. Many of them were passengers on the **Kent**, the first vessel to bring settlers to Burlington County.

BORTON. John Borton, wife and children, arrived from England in the spring of 1679. He brought the following Certificate of Removal from his home meeting, dated Third Month 5th, 1679:

"John Borton belonging to Aderbury Meeting, Oxon County, with his wife Ann and family for the Isle called New Jersey."

From Barton Monthly Meeting, Oxen County.

John Borton died in 1687 and mentioned in his will, dated July 28, of that year, his sons John and William and six daughters whose names were not given. His will also stated that he was the owner of 1-32nd of a share of land in West Jersey or approximately 937 acres. On March 27, 1680, he purchased 110 acres of land from Dr. Daniel Wills, adjoining the Wills plantation on the east. The abstract of deed reads:¹

"Daniel Wills of Rancokus, W. J. Dr. of Phissick, to John Boarton of the same place, husbandman, for 110 acres on Rancokus Creek, N. grantor, S. John Petty."

This farm was inherited by his son William Borton in 1687, and by him sold to John Woolman, grandfather of the Journalist, in 1698 as shown by the following record:²

"William Borton, yeoman, to John Woolman, weaver, both of Burlington Co., for 110 acres on Rancokus Creek, N. Daniel Wills, S. John Petty, bought by John Borton, father of grantor, of Daniel Wills, March 27, 1680."

On April 28, 1682, John Borton located 200 acres on the south side of Rancocas Creek and named his home "Hillsdown." The record of survey reads:³

"Surveyed then for John Boarton one parcell of Land Lyeing & Situate at the Head of a small Creek of Rancokus which bounds the Land of Henry Jacobs; from a white oak marked for a Corner neare the said brook it runs thence South forty chaines to a white oak for a second Corner, Thence East twenty three chaines to a white oak for a third Corner, Thence North Northeast thirty chaines to a white oak for a fourth Corner, Thence North forty chaines to a Hickery for a fifth Corner, Thence West againe to the brooke aforesaid, by which is bounded to a marked maple & soe Crossed the brook to the Corner first aforesaid. Surveyed for Two Hundred Acres."

This plantation was located on the Rancocas at a place that is still called "Borton's Landing." I am quite certain that "Larchmont Farm, near Masonville, now owned by Sarah R. and Rebecca Haines and their brother, C. William Haines is not part of "Hillsdown." The Hillsdown

plantation was inherited by John Borton's oldest son John in 1687. The father's will reads:⁴ "John Bourton, of Hillsdown (on the South side of Northampton River): will of. Wife Anne and six daughters, sons John and William." His will stipulates that he wanted to be buried in the Friends Burying Place at Burlington.

In October, 1689, John and William Borton located⁵ 325 acres "adjoining Timothy Brandeth and Noell Mew; the Westside, 175 acres, to John and the Eastside, 150 acres, to William." On the same date 100 acres recorded for John Borton "on Henry Jacob's Creek." These surveys are recorded in the New Jersey Archives under the year 1681, which is undoubtedly an error, as the Borton family did not take up land on the south side of Rancocas Creek until 1682.

On January 18, 1715, John Borton, Jr., purchased 1268⁶ acres in Evesham Township (now Mount Laurel) from Hugh Sharp, being part of a great tract of 5000 acres, "called Ninevah." This tract was on the southern side of the Rancocas and apparently joined "Hillsdown," the home of his parents. It is probable that the Larchmont Farm is part of this tract. Hillsdown remained in the Borton family until 1835 when Joseph Borton, grandfather of William J. Borton, formerly of Moorestown, purchased a farm on the road leading from Rancocas to Burlington.

The children of John and Ann Borton, the pioneers, were: John, William, Ann, Elizabeth, Esther, Mary and Susannah. Ann married Thomas Barton in 1681, Elizabeth married John Woolman in 1684 and Esther married John Haines in the same year. There are many descendants of John and Ann Borton living in the county at the present time. C. Walter Borton, of Moorestown, and his brother George W. Borton, of Philadelphia, are direct descendants of the pioneers, John and Ann Borton. The brothers are also lineal descendants of Dr. Daniel Wills, their mother being Susan Wills.

BUDD. Thomas, John, James and William Budd, sons of Thomas Budd former rector of Martook Parish, Somersetshire, England, arrived at Burlington prior to 1680.

Their father gave up his living in the Established Church early in the 1650's and shortly afterwards joined the Religious Society of Friends. He was arrested in 1657 for holding a meeting for worship in his home in violation of the Conventicle Act. He was tried before Justice Robert Hunt, at which time he was sharply questioned by a certain priest. "What say you, Mr. Budd, are the Scriptures the Word of God? Yea or Nay." Thomas Budd replied: "Christ is the Word of God and the Scriptures are a true Declaration of Him."

Thomas Budd, the oldest of the four brothers, arrived at Burlington in December, 1678, and his brothers followed shortly afterwards. We are especially interested in William, the youngest brother, as he settled near Mount Holly and nearly all of the county Budds are descended from him. William Budd located a large plantation east of Mount Holly in 1685, which extended from Rancocas Creek, west of Pemberton, northward to Arney's Mount. He erected a sandstone house on the slope of the Mount of stone quarried on the farm. Part of the plantation, including the house, is now owned by C. B. Fisher, of Mount Holly. Some of the walls of the original building are incorporated in the present farmhouse. The record of survey for the plantation, dated July, 1685, reads:⁷

"Return of Survey for William Budd, of 500 acres on Northampton River, West John Woolston junior, along the partition line between the First and Second Tenths and the line of the Indian purchase, including 25 acres of meadow next to Thomas Olive."

William Budd married Ann Claypoole in 1685 and they settled on the above plantation. The children of William and Ann Budd were:

William, married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Stockton.

Thomas, married Deborah Langstaff.

Susannah, married Samuel Woolston.

Ann, married James Bingham.

James, married Sarah

There is a tradition that the famous bankers, the Baring Brothers, of London, were descended from James and Ann Bingham. The plantation at Arney's Mount was inherited by the oldest son William, who married

Elizabeth Stockton. Thomas, the oldest son of William and Elizabeth Budd, married Jemima Leeds, daughter of Philo Leeds, who was the father of Vincent Leeds for whom Vincentown was named. In 1742 Philo Leeds conveyed 500 acres to Thomas Budd, son of William, Jr., at Buddtown. A sawmill was erected and a few houses built to accommodate the workmen. Buddtown, named for Thomas Budd, soon became a thriving hamlet. In 1844, according to Barber and Howe, the village contained one tavern, two stores and about thirty houses.

In April, 1694, Thomas Budd, the oldest brother, located 2000 acres between the Rancocas at Pemberton and Juliustown, east of his brother William's plantation. Thomas Budd died in 1697 or 1698 and his widow, Susannah, who inherited the above tract, sold it to John Garwood and Restore Lippincott in 1701.⁸ The tract was divided by the grantees; Garwood taking the northern half and Lippincott the southern.

The pioneer William Budd was a member of the Society of Friends when he arrived in West Jersey but became a follower of George Keith and afterwards joined the Church of England. He was made a warden of old St. Mary's Church in Burlington in 1710 and served for a number of years. Miss Mary W. Budd, of Mount Holly, is a direct descendant of William and Ann Claypoole Budd.

BURR. Henry Burr, the progenitor of the family in Burlington County, emigrated from England in 1682 and settled on Long Island before he came to West Jersey. He married Elizabeth Hudson, of Newton, Long Island. When they arrived in the county they first settled on a farm near Vincentown. The return of survey, dated November, 1690, reads:⁹

"Surveyed then for Henry Burr upon the forks of the Rancokus Creek, beginning at an elm on the South Branch of ye sd creek, of 342 acres, also 17 acres beginning at a stake in the Burnt Meadow westward of ye said land."

It is interesting to note that an elm tree is mentioned as a corner in this survey which is very unusual in Burlington County. The trees generally mentioned are the white

and black oaks and the hickory. The oaks seem to have predominated in the forests of upper Burlington County.

The stone mansion so beautifully located on Burr's Road, fully two miles north of Mount Holly, now the residence of Mrs. Norman W. Harker, is regarded as the ancestral home of the Burr family in the county. Prior to 1852 when the present road passing the Harker homestead was surveyed, it was a lane leading from the Burlington Road to the Burr farm. The old road to Burlington crossed the Burr Lane two hundred and forty-five yards from the present Burlington Road, which was laid out in 1803.

Henry Burr purchased "Peachfield," the attractive name by which the Harker farm is still known, from Helena Skene, widow of John Skene, as shown by the following abstract of deed, dated June 10, 1695:¹⁰

"Helena Skene, widow and executrix of John Skene of **Peachfield**, gent; dec'd, to Henry Burr of Burlington County, Yeoman, for 300 acres at Peachfield.

This deed indicates that John Skene, an early Deputy Governor of West Jersey and a member of the Governor's Council, gave the name "Peachfield" to the plantation. Helena Skene inherited the farm at the time of her husband's death early in the 1690's. John Skene purchased the plantation from Edward Byllynge, one of the two proprietors of West Jersey, who bought the Province from Lord Berkeley in 1674. The deed from Byllynge stated that the land lay along the Division Line between the two Tenths. The Division Line was about three quarters of a mile northeast of the Harker home.

On December 14, 1714, Henry Burr purchased 200 acres adjoining Peachfield from his neighbor William Stevenson for 240 pounds "Current Silver Money." Exactly two years later Henry Burr sold this farm to his son Joseph. The Mount Holly County Club is part of the Joseph Burr farm.

Francis Furgler, the famous hermit, mentioned in Smith's History of New Jersey, lived in a cave under a prostrate oak on Joseph Burr's farm for twenty-two years without a fire, depending on the charity of his neighbors

for food. He appeared in the neighborhood in 1756 dressed in a French uniform and appeared to be under great stress of mind. It was thought at that time that he was expiating a past sin. He told Charles Read that he was a native of Switzerland and that his real name was Francis Adam Joseph Phyle. He was found dead in his cave in 1778 with a crucifix and a brass fish by his side.

Henry and Elizabeth Burr had four sons and five daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth, married Samuel Woolman and became the mother of John Woolman, the famous Journalist. John, born in 1691, married Keziah Wright in 1712, Joseph, born in 1694, married Jane Abbott in 1726. William, born in 1710, removed to Pennsylvania and there seems to be no record of the youngest son Henry, who was born in 1713.

Henry and Elizabeth Burr have many descendants in the county, although the name has almost disappeared in Mount Holly. Nelson Burr Gaskill, of Washington, D. C., Charles S. Gaskill, of Moorestown and Thomas Logan Gaskill, of Atlantic City, are direct descendants of Henry and Elizabeth and also of Edward Gaskill, one of the founders of Mount Holly.

BUZBY.¹¹ John and Mary Buzby, the progenitors of the family in West Jersey, arrived at Philadelphia in 1682, bringing with them a Certificate of Removal from their home meeting, which reads:

“Whereas John Buzby weaver of Milton, in the Parish of Shipton and belonging to the meeting of Milton is disposed to transport himself beyond the sea into Pensilvania, this is our testimony to whom it may Concerne he ownes the living and everlasting truth of God and hath walked amongst us blameless in his life and conversation and we do believe he is not indebted to none we can understand, therefore we doe sett our testimony therof.”

They settled with their children, John, William, Edward, Richard, Nicholas, Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah in the vicinity of Frankford, Pennsylvania. The “Friends Hospital for Mental Diseases” stands on a Buzby farm. Richard and Nicholas married Hannah and Mary French, of Willingboro, daughters of the pioneers Thomas and

Jane French. They were married in the Burlington Meeting House on Eighth Month 30th, 1695. A double wedding was quite unusual among the Friends of that day and the event probably created quite a sensation in the quiet little Quaker settlement on the Delaware. Richard and Hannah settled near Frankford and Nicholas and Mary, the founders of the family in Burlington County, settled in Willingboro Township.

In 1714 Nicholas Buzby purchased 250 acres on Rancocas Creek from his brother-in-law Charles French, who had inherited the Thomas French plantation from his father. Franklin Park Farm, a full mile west of Rancocas, is part of the Nicholas Buzby farm. The property remained in the Buzby family until 1763 when it was sold to John Smith, of Burlington City, who in turn sold it to Governor William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, in 1770.

The children of Nicholas and Mary Buzby were:

Thomas, married Margaret Haines on 10-7-1727.

John, married Hannah Cripps, daughter of Nathaniel on 9-5-1733.

Isaac, married Martha . . . and settled at Frankford.

William, married Mary Wills, granddaughter of Dr. Daniel, on 8-25-1739.

Lydia, married James Mason on 2-7-1728.

Jane, married Jacob Burdsall on 11-1-1727.

Elizabeth and Sarah, apparently died young. No record of their marriage.

Benjamin, apparently did not marry.

The brothers all settled in Burlington County with the exception of Isaac. The Buzby family was prominent in the annals of Willingboro and Northampton Townships during the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries but at the present time T. Harvey Buzby and his son Elgar and their children are the only persons in Rancocas bearing the family name.

ELKINTON. George Elkinton, the founder of the family in West Jersey, arrived from Mollington, England, on the **Kent** in 1677. He was a blacksmith by trade and came over as an indentured servant to Dr. Daniel Wills,

to whom he was bound for four years. Several of the old county families trace their descent from indentured servants. These men (or women), though classified as servants, were not necessarily of the servant class in England but, generally speaking, were young men of good family who did not have the required five pounds "with meals and chest" for their passage. They were bound to their masters for four years and usually at the expiration of their service were given one hundred acres of land and helped to establish themselves as farmers. They were treated as members of their master's family and frequently married the daughters of good Quaker families.

On December 21, 1681, Dr. Daniel Wills located 500 acres on Rancocas Creek, east of the Centerton-Rancocas Road, and on the following day took up an additional 300 acres north of his home plantation for his son Daniel and his servant, George Elkinton. The survey is recorded as follows:¹²

"Memorandum of survey for Daniel Wills junior and George Elkinton, of 300 acres, 100 for Elkinton, the other 200 for Wills, on Mill Creek, adjoining Daniel Wills senior and John Boarton."

This tract of land was located on the road leading from Rancocas to Burlington, about two miles northeast of the former village. One end of the brick house now standing on the farm was built by George Elkinton, grandson of the pioneer, in 1765. George Elkinton, the pioneer, married first, Mary Bingham in 1683 (no issue) and second, Mary Core, a widow, in 1688. The children of George and Mary Core Elkinton were: Joseph, George, Joshua, Thomas, Mary and Elizabeth. Mary married John Roberts, son of the pioneer, in 1712 and Elizabeth married Thomas Ballinger in the following year. Joseph, the oldest son, married Elizabeth Austin in 1713, George married Ann . . . , Joshua died in infancy and I find no record of Thomas' marriage.

Thomas W. Elkinton, of Moorestown, President of the Philadelphia Quartz Company, is a direct descendant of George and Mary Core Elkinton. Passmore Elkinton, a prominent business man of Philadelphia, is also a descendant.

EVANS. William and Jean Hodges Evans arrived in West Jersey in 1682 with their children and settled on the Rancocas in Willingboro Township less than a mile west of Rancocas village. Before leaving England he purchased a Proprietary Right to land in West Jersey, recorded on April 8, 1682, as follows:¹³

"Richard Parkes of Hook Norton, Co. of Oxon, iron monger, to William Evans of South Newenten, said Co., carpenter, for $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1-15 of a share, bought of Daniel Wills of Northampton, Co. of Northampton, practitioner in chemistry, and Thomas Ollive of Wellingborough, same Co., haberdasher."

This would entitle him to locate 1000 acres of land in West Jersey unless he had sold fractions of his Proprietary Right to others. The first land taken up under this right was the Rancocas farm, the record of which, dated October 12, 1682, reads:¹⁴

"Memorandum of survey for William Evans of 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres on Rancokus River, E. Thomas Hardin, (Harding) W. Robert Dunsdale, (Dimsdale) N. Millbrook."

William and Jean (Jane) Evans had two sons, Thomas and William. Thomas married Sarah Hackney, daughter of Thomas, and located 400 acres in old Evesham Township, not far from Kirby's Mills in 1691 but apparently did not settle on same. He died early in 1693 and his will, dated May 2, 1692, reads "Thomas Evans, of Wellingburow, Burlington County." The witnesses were all Willingboro men. The Ezra Evans and Albert Forsythe farms are part of the Thomas Evans tract. Thomas Evans did not have any sons and his "great bible," mentioned in his will, was inherited by his brother William, by whom it was willed to the oldest son of each generation. It is now in possession of W. Henry Evans, of Moorestown, a direct descendant of William and Jane Evans, the pioneers, through their son William and Elizabeth Evans who settled at Mount Laurel.

William Evans, Jr., located "300 acres at Mount Tray" in Evesham Township (now Mount Laurel) in December, 1687. The plantation included the mount which rises 173 feet above sea level and is the fifth highest mount in South Jersey. It is an exceptionally beautiful mount and was

once called "Evans Mount." About one hundred years ago its name was changed to Mount Laurel by Miss Hannah Gillingham who taught in the Friends' School at its eastern base. The name was so attractive that the name of the village was changed from Evesham to Mount Laurel when the Post Office was established in 1849.

To the above farm William Evans brought his bride, Elizabeth Hanke, a Quaker minister whom he married in 1693 at Darby Meeting. William Evans, Sr., died in 1688 and was buried in the Friends Graveyard near Rancocas. His widow, Jean Evans, survived him for nine years. In 1700 William Evans, Jr., purchased 1000 acres from Margaret Cook, of Philadelphia, and in the following year paid the Indian King "Himicon" five pounds for the same tract. This large tract of land lay to the south and east of Marlton. The late Joseph Stokes Evans' farm is part of the 1000 acre tract. His widow, Mary Roberts Evans, has the original Indian deed which was framed and hangs on the wall of her living room. Her husband was a lineal descendant of the grantee.

The children of William and Elizabeth Evans were: Thomas, John and Jean. Thomas, a recorded minister in the Society of Friends, married, first, Esther Haines in 1715 and second, Rebecca Owen in 1730 and settled on the Marlton plantation. John married Ruth Nicholson, of Salem, New Jersey, and lived on his father's farm at Mount Laurel.

EVES. Thomas Eves, packer, and his wife Anna and sister Dorothy, who married William Heulings, arrived on the **Kent** and apparently remained at New Stockholm, the name of the Swedish village at the mouth of the Raccoon Creek, during the first winter. Thomas was the son of John and Dorothy Eves, of London. Before leaving England Thomas Eves purchased 1/32 of a share of land in West Jersey from Thomas Olive and as a Proprietor signed the Concessions and Agreements.

His first survey, recorded on September 29, 1680, was for a town lot, containing 30 acres, in Burlington on the eastern side of Assiscunk Creek, near the Delaware River. It is probable that he built a log house on this lot, in

which the family lived until 1682 when he located 100 acres on the northern side of the Rancocas about two miles above Bridgeboro. The record of survey, dated January 12, 1682, reads:¹⁵

"Surveyed for Thomas Eves, of 100 acres on Rancokus River between John Roberts, the Mill Creek and Thomas Ollive."

This farm was located on the eastern side of the old Salem Road which crossed Rancocas Creek at a place now called Adams Wharf and continued through Moorestown and Haddonfield to Salem. About two miles west of Moorestown the old road forked, the right branch leading to Cooper's Ferry, now Camden. This was probably the route of the pioneer settlers on the Rancocas, when they went to Philadelphia prior to the opening, in 1749, of the Burlington Pike, now Route 25. The children of Thomas and Anna Eves were:

Thomas, born in England, married Mary, daughter of John and Sarah Roberts, in 1699 at Chester (now Moorestown) Meeting and settled in Evesham Township near Evesboro, formerly Green Tree.

John, born in 1678, married Mary Hudson in 1710.

Daniel, born in 1681. No record of marriage.

Samuel, born in 1684, married Jane Wills, daughter of John, in 1716.

Benjamin, born in 1686. No record of marriage.

Anna, born in 1689, married James Lippincott in 1709.

Dorothy, born in 1692, married Jacob Heulings.

Thomas Eves, Sr. died in 1728 and as his will reads "of Evesham Township" it is evident that he was then living with his son Thomas. His wife died in 1708 and was buried in the Friends Burying Ground at Rancocas.

GASKILL. It is not definitely known when Edward Gaskill, founder of the family in West Jersey, first located land near Mount Holly though it was undoubtedly prior to 1688. The first mention of his name that I have found was in a deed, dated November 10, 1688, in which Sarah Parker, widow, conveyed 200 acres of land which was located northeast of Mount Holly. Three acres of this tract consisted of meadow land "S. W. John Woolston, S. E. Edward Gascoyne, N. E. Grantor." It will be

noted that the name is spelled "Gascoyne" in this deed and it is very likely that the Gaskill family is of French origin, though "Edward Gaskoyne" and Sarah his wife, who arrived in Massachusetts in 1636 came from England..

Edward Gaskill, of Mount Holly, was born at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1667 and married Hannah Endecott, granddaughter of Governor John Endecott, of Massachusetts, on April 10, 1693. His father, Samuel Gaskill, married Provided Southwick, daughter of Cassandra Southwick and heroine of Whittier's poem "Cassandra Southwick." Edward and Hannah Gaskill settled in West Jersey in 1697 or 1698. It is evident that Edward Gaskill came to Burlington County prior to 1688, as I have shown that owned land near Mount Holly in that year. If he made such an exploratory journey—and it is evident that he did—he returned to Massachusetts and married Hannah Endecott and lived there for a few years.

In 1701 Josiah Southwick and Edward Gaskill purchased a tract containing 871 acres from John Ridges, of London, through his attorney Samuel Jennings, of Burlington. This tract was divided by the grantees in 1720; Southwick retaining the northern portion and Gaskill the southern, which included the loop formed by the winding Rancocas south of Mill Street, known as "Gaskill's Neck" in the early days.

Union Street is the approximate northern line of the Southwick-Gaskill property. Extend Union Street in a northeasterly direction a little more than a third of a mile and then draw a line almost due south through the so-called Cripp's Oak at the intersection of Branch and Garden Streets to the Rancocas, east of the loop, and the land inclosed plus the "Neck" will mark the Gaskill property.

The Gaskill residence stood near the first Friends meeting house on Wood Lane, erected in 1716, as shown by a resurvey of the property made by Thomas Scattergood in 1742. This survey reads:

"Surveyed this piece of land near mount holly of from Nathaniel Cripps Plantation In order for the building of a Meeting House upon: Containing and laid forth for an Acre and half And is thus bounded Begineth att a Small Heckry Saplin on ye South Side of

a Certaine Road that leads from Burlington along the laine By Edward Gaskill House and Runs along by ye Said Roade South Eastwardly 54 degrees 4 chain & 59 links to a stake then South South West 3 chains & 29 links to another Stake thence North Westwardly 54 degrees 4 Chains & 59 links to a heckry Sapling & from thence north north East to ye first mentioned Corner."

The house stood near the cemetery on Wood Lane north of the mount, and not far from the meeting house. Shortly after the division of the Southwick-Gaskill tract in 1720 Edward Gaskill and associates built a dam across the Rancocas and dug the raceway that still meanders through the town. Edward Gaskill and others constructed a sawmill and in 1723 or possibly a little later they established a gristmill. These mills were apparently Mount Holly's earliest industries.

Edward Gaskill should be remembered as one of the founders of Mount Holly. He died in 1748 and was buried in the old Quaker Burying Ground on Wood Lane. The children of Edward and Hannah Endecott Gaskill were: Joseph, Zerubabel, Provided, Samuel, Hannah, Benjamin and Ebenezer. Thomas Logan, Nelson Burr and Charles S., sons of Judge Joseph H. and Ellie S. Gaskill—all Mount Holly boys—are lineal descendants of Samuel and Provided Gaskill and their son Edward who married Hannah Endecott.

HAINES. The progenitors of the family, Richard and Margaret Haines, came from "Aynehoe on ye Hill," Northamptonshire, England, on the ship **Amity** in 1682. According to family tradition the father died and their youngest son Joseph was born during the passage. Their children were: John, Richard, Thomas, Mary and Joseph. The first survey recorded for John Haines is dated January 11, 1683, and reads:¹⁶

"Memorandum of Survey for John Haynes one parcell of Land abutting on the South side of the South Branch of Northampton River and from a white oak thereby marked it runs S.W.80 chains to a white for a second corner, thence N.W.25 chains to a black oak for a third corner, then N.E. to the said river."

Surveyed for 200 acres.

The plantation had a frontage on Rancocas Creek of a little less than a third of a mile and extended southward through the "forest primeval" for one mile. It adjoined Benjamin Moore's farm on the east.

John Haines married Esther Borton, daughter of the pioneers John and Ann, in 1684 and settled on the above plantation. Richard married Mary Carlile, daughter of John and Mary Goodone Carliell (old English spelling of the family name), of the hamlet of Spittelsfield, Parish of Stepney, England, in about 1699. It is probable that they were married in England as their marriage is not recorded in this country. William married Sarah Paine, daughter of John Paine of Willingborough Township in 1695. Thomas married Elizabeth Austin in 1692 and Joseph, the youngest son, married, first Dorothy . . . in 1704 and second, Elizabeth Thomas in 1722.

There is no historical foundation for the family tradition that Mary Carlile, wife of Richard, was a Delaware Indian. John Carlile, son of John of Spittelsfield, married Mary Glading in the Friends Meeting House at Burlington on May 27, 1704, and Richard and Mary Haines signed the wedding certificate with the Carlile and Glading families. The Haines and Carlile families were not related, therefore Richard and Mary would not have signed with the Carlile family had Mary been an Indian. It is significant that Richard and Mary named their first two sons Carlile and Abraham, distinctly Carlile names, and that these names frequently appear in later generations of their family.

It is even more significant that Richard Haines named his wife Mary and his daughter Elizabeth Newberry executrixes of his estate in his will, dated December 17, 1744. If we accept the family tradition it would mean that a full-blooded Indian and a half-breed had charge of administering his estate, which is hardly conceivable.

The Haines men, generally speaking, have been successful farmers or business men. The Haines family is a very old English family and the family name was spelled **Haynes** in old England. A Haynes was Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. Thomas Lee Haines,

of Moorestown, is a direct descendant of Richard and Margaret.

HOLLINSHEAD. John and Grace Hollinshead with their children arrived at Burlington on a ship from London in the Fall of 1678. They evidently settled in Burlington in 1679 or early in 1680, as on September 8, 1680, there is recorded for John Hollinshead "a town lot on Delaware River, over against the lower end of Burlington Island, along the creek around it, 30 acres."¹⁷

He was evidently one of Burlington's earliest merchants, as a deed recorded on November 14, 1682, reads in part as follows: "Thomas Ollive of Wellingburrow, haberdasher, to John Hollinshead of Burlington, **merchant**, for a wharf lot in Burlington." Just when the Hollinshead family settled in Chester Township is not definitely known. A survey recorded on June 4, 1689, reads:¹⁸

"Memorandum of Survey for John Hollinshead, of 1,150 acres including his former settlement of 1,000 acres, along Northampton River, between Thomas Kendall, John Rodman and Thomas Hooton."

Revel's Book of Surveys, in which this survey is recorded, begins in September, 1680, and as the first two pages are missing it is reasonably safe to say that he located the 1,000 acre plantation in 1679. The location of the Hollinshead plantation is definitely known. It was located on the south side of Rancocas Creek where the Salem Road, frequently referred to as the Kings Highway, crossed the creek and extended back to the eastern edge of Moorestown. The Salem Road crossed the Rancocas at a place now called Adams Wharf. For many years the Hollinshead family conducted a ferry across the creek and the place was locally known as "Hollinshead's Ferry" or "Hollinshead's Dock."

John and Grace Hollinshead had six children, all of whom died in infancy with the exception of William and John. William married Elizabeth Adams, of Chester

(now Moorestown), in 1692 and John married Agnes Hackney, of near Moorestown. Elizabeth was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Adams, the first substantial residents of Moorestown. Agnes was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Hackney who settled on the Rancocas above Bridgeboro. In September, 1693, John Hollinshead conveyed the southern portion of plantation to his son William. The Abstract of Deed reads:¹⁹

"John Hollinshead of Burlington Co., yeoman, to his son William Hollinshead and wife Elizabeth, for 450 acres, called Beargarden, W. John Adams and Thomas Hooton; also a strip on the Southside of it."

The Beargarden plantation, the home of William and Elizabeth Hollinshead. was located east of Stanwick Road, Moorestown, and their house stood on the Salem Road. Main Street in Moorestown follows the Salem Road from the Burlington County Trust Company to Borton's Landing Road, where the old road veered to the north. The present road from Camden through Moorestown to Mount Holly was laid out in 1794.

John and Agnes Hollinshead lived on the northern portion of their father's plantation on Rancocas Creek and John conducted the ferry after his father's death in 1700. Joseph, son of John and Agnes, married Sarah, daughter of Isaac Pearson, the pioneer clockmaker of Burlington, in 1740 and was the first of the famous Hollinshead clockmakers. The Hollinshead clockmakers were: Joseph, his sons Joseph and John, of Burlington, Hugh of Mount Holly, Hugh and Morgan, of Moorestown, Jacob, of Salem, George, of Woodstown and probably Job, the son of Morgan Hollinshead.

John Hollinshead, the progenitor of the family in Burlington County, was a staunch Quaker and in 1692 signed the Yearly Meeting Testimony against George Keith, who caused the first major schism in the Religious Society of Friends. Keith, who was brilliant though erratic and dogmatic, was disowned in 1692 because of doctrinal differences.

The pioneer, John Hollinshead, was actively interested in civic affairs and served as Constable, Commissioner of

Highways, Justice of Peace and as a member of the West Jersey Assembly. There are many descendants of John and Grace Hollinshead living in the county today, most of whom are valuable members of the Society of Friends.

JACOBS. The first settlers to take up land on the south side of the Rancocas above Bridgeboro were: Thomas Hackney, Thomas Hooton, of Philadelphia, John Hollinshead, Henry Jacobs, Thomas Kendall and John Borton. Henry Jacobs settled on the Rancocas in 1681. The abstract of survey for his plantation reads as follows:²⁰

“Memorandum of Survey for Henry Jacobs, of 200 acres on the Southside of and along Rankokus Creek at the mouth of a small branch.”

The plantation was given to him by Thomas Olive and Daniel Wills on January 2, 1681,²¹ “with the consent of Thomas Budd, Thomas Lambert, Samuel Jennings and Mahlon Stacy in consideration of his public services as an Indian interpreter.” Henry Jacobs sold the above plantation to Noel Mew of “Road Island” in 1685.²² In 1699 he moved “to near Egg Harbour” on a very large plantation “in his own Indian purchase.” Here he became known as Henry Jacobs Falkinburg and was the founder of the Falkinburg family.

His real name was Henry Jacobson Falconbre and he probably came from Denmark with the Swedes early in the 17th century. The West Jersey Proprietors employed him in 1677 to act as their interpreter when negotiating with the Indians for the land lying between Rancocas Creek and the Assanpink, which flows into the Delaware River at Trenton.²³ Henry Jacobs evidently was the English version of his name.

Jasper Danckaerts and Peter Sluyter, the Dutch Labadists who came down the Delaware from the Falls (Trenton) in 1679, stayed over Sunday in Burlington and finding the Inn overcrowded they returned to the home of “Hendrick Jacobs” in East Burlington. Jacobs lived in a log house at **Lazy Point**, east of Assiscunk Creek. Dankaerts—sometimes spelled Dankers—fortunately kept a

diary of their trip to America, which is very interesting and historically valuable. He described the log houses of the early settlers very accurately.

LIPPINCOTT. Richard and Abigail Lippincott, the progenitors of the New Jersey family, emigrated from Devonshire, England, in 1639 and settled at Dorchester, Massachusetts. They returned to England in 1653 and soon afterwards joined the Religious Society of Friends. Richard was imprisoned for preaching that "Christ was the Word of God," rather the Bible, which was inspired by Him and intended for our guidance; a doctrine still held by the Society. Richard and Abigail returned to America in about 1663 with their children and apparently settled in Rhode Island. In 1665 Richard Lippincott joined a group of Quakers in purchasing a large tract of land in East Jersey, near Shrewsbury, and moved to that neighborhood a year or two later.

The children of Richard and Abigail were: Remembrance, John, Abigail, Restore, Freedom, Increase, Jacob and Preserve. Abigail and Preserve died in infancy. The only ones to settle in Burlington County were Restore and Freedom. Restore married Hannah Shattuck, of Boston, in 1674 and settled on a large plantation east of Mount Holly. Friends meetings for worship were held in their home before the first meeting house on Wood Lane, north of the mount, was erected in 1716. The deed for the above plantation was dated on September 21, 1692, and reads:²⁴

"Thomas Ollive of Wellingborough, yeoman, and wife Mary to Restore Lippincott, late of Shrewsbury, East Jersey, now of Northampton River, West Jersey, husbandman, for the plantation now occupied by grantee, 570 acres, in Northampton Township, along the line between the two Tenths, adjoining Widow Parker and John Woolston."

On January 10, 1700, Restore Lippincott conveyed 301 acres of this plantation to his son Samuel. In the following year Restore Lippincott and John Garwood jointly purchased 2,000 acres from Susannah, widow of Thomas Budd, which tract extended from the Rancocas at Pemberton to Juliustown. By mutual agreement Lippincott

took the southern and Garwood and northern portion. Restore owned the land where Pemberton now stands, east of Hanover Street.

Freedom Lippincott, a younger brother of Restore, was married in the Burlington Meeting House on "Eighth Month 4th, 1680; the maiden name of his bride not being definitely known. The minute of Burlington Monthly Meeting liberating them to marry reads "Mary Costoms" and on the wedding certificate it appears as "Mary Custin," which indicates that her name was not a familiar one to the clerk. It is frequently written "Mary Curtis" but as the pioneer, John Curtis, did not have a daughter named Mary this is obviously incorrect.²⁵

In 1684 Thomas Olive conveyed 200 acres of his plantation on the north side of Rancocas Creek, above Bridgeboro, to Freedom Lippincott. It is significant that this is the only record of his having conveyed any portion of his home plantation of 636 acres and also significant that he remembered only relatives in his will, dated November 8, 1692, and proved in the same year. The record of survey to Freedom Lippincott reads:²⁶

"The bounds of ffreedom Lippincott's Land and meadow, whereof all but ye meadows & allowance for a Highway was formerly recorded for Tho:Ollive. Surveyed for Freedom Lippincott 200 acres on Northampton River and Mill Creek along Thomas Eves': inc. 6 acres of meadow on said river next to John Furnis."

This farm was bounded on the east by the Old Salem Road, which ran from Burlington through the village of Charleston to Adams Wharf where it crossed the Rancocas. Freedom Lippincott was a tanner and blacksmith and it is said that he was killed by lightning while shoeing a horse under a tree in 1697. His son Freedom settled near Marlton and has a number of descendants living in that neighborhood, including Paul S. Lippincott, Jr., and his brother Horace.

The Lippincott family is one of the oldest and most distinguished in the county and traces its lineage back to the 11th century in England. The family name is spelled in many ways both in this country and in old England.

MOORE. Benjamin Moore, a young man, arrived from Lincolnshire on the **Kent** in 1677. He is said to have been a brother of Sir John Moore and a friend of William Penn. He married Sarah Stokes, daughter of the pioneers Thomas and Mary Barnard Stokes, in 1693 and settled on the Bull's Head Road on the south side of the Rancocas below Lumberton. The survey for this farm was recorded in January, 1683, as follows:²⁷

"Memorandum of Survey by Daniel Leeds for Benjamin Moore, of 100 acres on the South branch of Northampton River between John Haynes and a small creek."

The children of Benjamin and Sarah Moore were: John, Benjamin, Thomas, Joseph, Samuel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Dorothy and Mary. John was not married. Benjamin married Rebecca Fenimore, Thomas married Miriam Ridgway and Joseph married Patience Woolman, sister of the Journalist, and settled on the Moore farm on the Bull's Head Road about two miles below Lumberton. The brick house erected by him in 1754 is still standing and probably is the oldest house in the neighborhood. Granville Moore, of Mount Laurel, is descended from Joseph and Patience Moore through their son Cyrus, who married Mary Austin.

POWELL. Robert and Prudence Powell arrived from London on the **Kent** in 1677. Their daughter Elizabeth's was the first birth recorded in the Burlington Monthly Meeting Book and Ann Wills, daughter of Daniel and Mary Wills, the second. The record of Elizabeth Powell's birth reads:

"Elizabeth Powell daughter of Robert & Prudence Powell.
in Burl

Born the Seaventh of the 7th mo 1677 Latte of London Chandler."

witnesses then P'sent

Ellen Harding

Mary Cripps

Ann Peachee

As March was the first month of the year under the old calendar, this record today would read September 7, 1677. As the words "in Burl" apparently were inserted

after the record was made, some historians think that she was born in New Stockholm, the Swedish village at the mouth of Raccoon Creek, where most of the Kent passengers remained for the winter. It is hardly likely that an expectant mother would be permitted to go up the river to the site of the future settlement and spend the winter in the wilderness. If so, the family must have stayed with one of the Dutch families at the mouth of Assiscunk Creek in log houses.

Elizabeth Powell first married James Newbold, son of the pioneers Michael and Anne and second, Jacob DeCou in 1699 at the home of Daniel Wills. All of the Burlington County DeCous are descended from Jacob and Elizabeth. Her parents, Robert and Prudence Powell, settled on a farm on the northern side of Mill Creek, opposite the Thomas French plantation and west of the village of Rancocas. The record of survey, dated January 7, 1682, reads:²⁸

"For Robert Powell, of 150 acres on the north side of Mill Creek along the town bounds, between Benjamin Scott and John Chaffin."

Robert Powell died in 1693 and the home farm was inherited by his oldest son Robert, who sold the farm to Nathaniel Cripps, son of John Cripps, in 1694. The deed, dated October 27, 1694, reads:²⁹

"Robert Powell of Northampton River, son and heir of Robert Powell of Burlington dec'd, to Nathaniel Cripps of the same place, yeoman, for 150 acres, surveyed for his father as part of his 1-32 of a share, on the northside of Mill Creek, along the townbounds between Benjamin Scott and John Chaffen."

Robert Powell had two sons, Robert and John, from whom the Burlington County Powells are descended.

STOKES. Thomas Stokes of Lower Shadwell and Mary Barnard of Stepney were married in London on Tenth Month 30th, 1668. They emigrated to America on the **Kent** in the late summer of 1677. Smith's History of New Jersey (1765) states that the **Kent** arrived at New Castle on the "16th of the 6th month O. S.," which would be August on the present calendar. The Stokes family

probably lived in Burlington before they located their farm on the Rancocas, although I find no record of their having done so. The first record of a survey for him in the New Jersey Archives is dated October 2, 1683, and is recorded in the name of his brother John Stokes, a baker of London. It reads:³⁰

“Return of Survey for John Stokes, of 162 acres on Rancokus River between Bernard Devonish and Thomas Gardner, including 12½ acres on the point of the river forks.”

In May, 1701, John Stokes conveyed this plantation to his brother Thomas for “five shillings lawful money of England and the natural love and affection which I do have and beare unto my brother Thomas living at or near Burlington in West Jersey.” John, the baker, apparently never came to this country. The Stokes farm was located on the north side of the North Branch of Rancocas Creek, a short distance above the Forks of the two branches. The children of Thomas and Mary Stokes were:

Sarah, married Benjamin Moore, the pioneer, in 1693 and settled below Lumberton.

Mary, married John Hudson, son of Robert, in 1696.

John, married Elizabeth Green, daughter of Thomas, of England, in 1712.

Joseph, married, first, Judith Lippincott, and second, Ann Ashard Haines.

Thomas, married, first, Deliverance Horner, and second, Rachel Wright.

John, the oldest brother, who married Elizabeth Green in 1712, had purchased 150 acres of the Thomas Harding plantation on Rancocas Creek, west of Rancocas and he and Elizabeth settled on this farm at the time of their marriage. A very pretty story has come down to us about the courtship and marriage of John and Elizabeth, who is known in family tradition as “Lady Green.” She was the daughter of Sir Thomas Green, of Green’s Norton, England. The Green family was wealthy, proud and aristocratic and as Elizabeth had formed an attachment for a young Englishman to whom her father objected, she was sent to the wilderness of West Jersey in care of his friend Dr. Daniel Wills.

When the gay Elizabeth arrived in the neighborhood of Rancocas a young man was needed to serve as groom and to accompany her when she rode her horse over the beautiful woodland paths or canoed on the Rancocas. John Stokes, who lived further up the creek with his parents Thomas and Mary Barnard Stokes was employed for this pleasant duty. John was a steady and trustworthy young Quaker and doubtless was regarded as a perfectly safe companion for the young lady. Strange are the ways of Cupid! They soon became warm friends as they rode their horses over the Indian Paths or paddled on the Rancocas. Their friendship quickly ripened into love and they were married in 1712. Her father disinherited her when he heard of her marriage to her groom but afterwards relented when he found that Stokes blood was just as blue as Green blood.

Dr. Joseph Stokes, of Moorestown, and his children Eleanor Stokes Smith, Dr. S. Emlen and Dr. Joseph Stokes, Jr. and his cousins J. Bispham, W. Cheston and James M. Stokes are direct descendants of the pioneers Thomas and Mary Barnard Stokes. "Dr. Joe," as the senior Dr. Joseph Stokes was lovingly called by his many friends, was descended from the pioneers through their son Joseph and his second wife Ann Ashard Haines and also from John and Elizabeth through his mother, whose maiden name was Stokes. "Dr. Joe" was a brilliant man, lovable and forceful. Dr. Joseph and Mary Emlen Stokes have two sons, both of whom are doctors. Moorestown and vicinity has been served by a "Dr. Stokes" since 1786.

WHITE. Josiah White, the founder of the family in Burlington County, was the grandson of Christopher White who came over on the **Kent** in 1677 and settled near Salem, New Jersey. Josiah moved to Mount Holly in 1729³¹ and in the following year purchased 63 acres of land and a fulling mill from Samuel Gaskill, son of the pioneer Edward Gaskill. This land lay to the south of Mill Street in the loop caused by the winding of Rancocas Creek and was known in the early days as "Gaskill's Neck." He was a forceful and enterprising young man

and played an important part in the development of Mount Holly as an industrial center.

About a year before leaving Salem he contracted to build a dam across Alloways Creek and stipulated in the contract that he guaranteed it for one year. There was opposition to the project and the night before the contract terminated the dam was maliciously cut and as vandalism could not be proven Josiah White was not paid for the work. According to tradition he was so exasperated over the injustice of the affair that he sold his estate and moved to Mount Holly, doubtless attracted to it for its water power.

The fulling mill was located back of the Relief Fire House on Pine Street, opposite Church Street. The fulling mill purchased from Samuel Gaskill was enlarged and soon became one of the leading industries of the town. The mill was in active operation for nearly one hundred years when it was converted into a carding and spinning factory, to which the farmers brought their wool to be converted into cloth. The old mill was destroyed by fire in about 1881 and was not rebuilt. Josiah White's house, a substantial brick dwelling, stood at the northwest corner of Pine and Church Streets not far from his fulling mill. It was taken down prior to 1880 and the present house erected.

Josiah White was one of the most forceful and colorful characters in the early history of Mount Holly. A prominent Quaker preacher, a successful business man, an ardent abolitionist and substantial citizen. He refused to wear clothing that was the product of slave labor or dyed with dyes injurious to the cloth or with fancy colors "to support pride." Like his friend John Woolman he visited the wealthy Quaker slaveholders and labored to convince them that it was unchristian to hold their fellow men in bondage. Had he written a journal he would be better known today.

He was skilled in the use of herbs in the treatment of disease and invariably refused to accept pay for his services as he felt that his skill was a gift of God and should be freely used for the benefit of his fellowmen. He liter-

ally accepted Christ's teaching "to love your enemies" and when the Hessians camped in Mount Holly in June, 1778, he visited them and freely treated those who were sick or wounded; at the same time reproving them for taking the lives of their fellow men. It is said that not a few of the miserable creatures were deeply affected by his kindness and expressed regret for their actions.

Josiah White married Rebecca Foster, daughter of Josiah and Amy Foster, in 1734 and they had one son named John, from whom Miss Elizabeth White the "Blueberry Queen" is descended. Josiah White died in 1780 in his 75th year and was buried in the Friends Graveyard on Garden Street. He is said to have been a friend of Benjamin Franklin and of his son William, the last Royal Governor of New Jersey, whose country estate, Franklin Park Farm, was located a little over a mile west of Rancocas.

WILLS. Dr. Daniel Wills, a leading London Commissioner and signer of the Concessions and Agreements, arrived from Northampton on the **Kent** in 1677, accompanied by his wife and eight children. He was an early convert to the Quaker Faith and was imprisoned for "conscience sake" in 1659, 1660 and again in 1664. The children of Daniel Wills and his first wife Elizabeth, were:

James, born in 1656, married Hester Gardiner.

Daniel born in 1658, married Margaret Newbold and settled near Eayrestown.

John, born in 1660, married Hope Delefosse. He inherited his father's plantation at Rancocas and settled on same.

Children of Daniel Wills and his second wife, Mary Wagstaff:

Mary, born in 1667. Died in infancy.

Samuel, born in 1668. Apparently did not marry.

Mary, born in 1670, married Thomas Olive. Second wife.

Joseph, born in 1673. Died single in 1693.

Elizabeth, born in 1675, married George Bliss.

Ann, born in Burlington on Tenth Month 6th, 1677. Ann is the second child recorded in the Burlington Monthly Meeting records.

Before leaving England Dr. Daniel Wills purchased large proprietary rights for land in West Jersey from William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas, Trustees for Edward Byllnge's creditors. Two deeds were recorded on January 22, 1677, one for a full share for Daniel Wills, Thomas Olive and William Biddle and the other for one share for Wills and Olive. A half interest in the latter share was sold to William Biddle on April 4, 1677. A share contained approximately 30,000 acres, therefore Dr. Daniel Wills was entitled to take up 17,000 acres in West Jersey under these proprietary rights. Fractions of shares were sold to other parties before he left England and probably after he arrived in New Jersey.

Dr. Daniel Wills first located in Burlington on the western side of High Street not far from the Delaware. Lots of nine acres each were surveyed for the leading London Proprietors and Daniel Wills was allotted the third lot from the river. Similar lots were allotted to the Yorkshire Proprietors on the eastern side of the street. A very interesting account of the settlement of Burlington was written by Daniel Wills, Jr., in 1715 which is printed in full in my "Burlington: a Provincial Capital" on pages 30 and 31.

The country estate of Dr. Daniel Wills on Rancocas Creek, near the village of Rancocas, was surveyed in 1681 and recorded on December 21 of that year, as follows:³²

"Return of survey for Daniel Wills one parcell of land abutting on Rancokus alias Northampton River, Beginning at John Bourton's corner by a marsh & runs thence westerly by the River forty chains to a stake on the west side of a small creek, thence by the land of John Payne into the woods North, Northeast 125 chains to a gum tree for a corner, thence East, Southeast forty chains to a white oak marked for a corner, thence South, Southeast till it meets a corner stake of John Bourton by which lyne it descends down to ye corner stake first aforesaid."

Surveyed for 500 acres

On the next day he located 300 acres north of his home plantation, 100 acres of which were for George Elkinton and the other 200 for his son Daniel. This tract was on

the road leading from the Rancocas-Mount Holly road to Burlington. The home plantation of Dr. Wills is located on the eastern side of the Rancocas-Centerton Road and extended northward for fully one and a half miles. The eastern portion of the village stands on the Wills farm.

The attractive brick house standing on the bluff overlooking the Rancocas, now the residence of Doctor and Mrs. E. C. Hessert, was erected by Aaron Wills in 1786. Dr. Wills' house stood on the meadow bank much nearer to the Centerton Road and on the old road leading from Mount Holly to Beverly. The entrance to Dr. Hessert's lane follows the approximate course of the old Beverly Road. According to family tradition an Indian village was located near Dr. Wills' residence.

Dr. Daniel Wills was one of the most influential of the early settlers in West Jersey. He was one of the Commissioners appointed by the West Jersey Proprietors to purchase land from the Indians and to set up a government under the Concessions and Agreements where all could worship God according to the dictates of the individual conscience. He took an active part in the affairs of the new Province and served as a member of the Assembly, a member of the Council, Land Commissioner and Justice. He went to Barbados in 1698 to settle the estate of his brother William and while there he was taken ill and died in the 65th year of his age.

WOOLSTON. The two John Woolstons, generally referred to as senior and junior, arrived on the **Kent** in 1677. They were uncle and nephew rather than father and son as generally supposed.³³ They were young men when they arrived and came up the river with the Commissioners and helped to establish the settlement of Burlington. John Woolston, Sr. was a carpenter and doubtless they did their full share in clearing the forest and building log houses; usually the first home of the pioneer in the wilderness. The log house was succeeded by a frame or brick building in the course of a few years, when the settlers became established in the new province.

John Woolston, Sr. had purchased 1/8 of a share of land from Thomas Olive, who established the first grist-

mill in Burlington County as now constituted. He married Hannah Cooper, daughter of William Cooper of "Pyne Point" (Camden) on "Seventh month 8th, 1681," and lived in Burlington before they settled on their large plantation in Mansfield Township, near Columbus. John Woolston, called Junior, married Lettice Newbold, daughter of the pioneers Michael and Ann Newbold, in 1683 and settled near Ewanville, then in Northampton Township. The survey for this plantation, recorded on November 30, 1682, reads:³⁴

"Return of Survey for John Woolston junior, of 500 acres, beginning at an Indian town on Rancocas River, at the mouth of a small brook, including 8 acres of meadow on the line between the First and Second Tenths."

This plantation remained in the Woolston family for many generations. The last of the family to own the farm was Walter Ellis Woolston, now living in Mount Holly, who still owns part of the farm fronting on Rancocas Creek. The present owner of the farm is J. Wilson Stiles who has modernized the interior of the old house. The brick farmhouse stands on the eastern side of Route 39 about one mile north of Ewanville. The western end of the house, facing Route 39, according to family tradition was built by John Woolston, Jr. in about 1711 but historians question the tradition and are generally of the opinion that it was built by his oldest son John at a later date.

John Woolston, Jr. died in 1712 and his widow, Lettice Woolston, survived him several years. She is said to have been buried on the farm not far from the house. John and Lettice Woolston had four sons and consequently there are a number of descendants bearing the name Woolston in the county today.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 25

- 1 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 509. Secretary of State, Liber B-2, p. 630.
- 2 Ibid, 517. Liber B-2, p. 655.
- 3 Ibid, 352. Revel, 31.
- 4 N. J. A. Vol. XXIII, 47.
- 5 Ibid, Vol. XXI, 378. Revel. 127.
- 6 The writer has a photostatic copy of the deed.

- 7 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 362. Revel, 73.
- 8 Ibid, 529. Liber B-2, p. 694.
- 9 Ibid, 366. Revel, 90.
- 10 Ibid, 473. Liber B-2, p. 508.
- 11 Sketch of the Buzby family in the "Descendants of Thomas French," Vol. 1, pp. 139-141.
- 12 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 350. Revel, 19.
- 13 Ibid, 478. Liber B-2, p. 528.
- 14 Ibid, 353. Revel, 33.
- 15 Ibid, 350. Revel, 21.
- 16 Ibid, 361. Revel, 70.
- 17 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 345. Revel, 3.
- 18 Ibid, 376. Revel, 123.
- 19 Ibid, 478. Liber B-2, p. 528.
- 20 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 349. Revel, 17.
- 21 Ibid, 414. Liber B-1, p. 110.
- 22 Ibid, 414. Liber B-1, p. 111.
- 23 Smith, 94.
- 24 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 456. Liber B-1, p. 436.
- 25 John P. Dornan, a genealogist states that her name was Mary Costard. See my "Burlington: A Provincial Capital," page 225.
- 26 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 364. Revel, 82.
- 27 Ibid, 361. Revel, 71.
- 28 Ibid, 350. Revel, 21.
- 29 Ibid, 451. Liber B-1, p. 405.
- 30 Ibid, 359. Revel, 60.
- 31 Burlington Monthly Meeting Minutes show that he was received on Certificate from Salem Meeting. Hinshaw.
- 32 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 350. Revel, 19.
- 33 John P. Dornan states that John Woolston, Jr., was a nephew of the pioneer.
- 34 N. J. A. Vol. XXI, 355. Revel, 43.

Chapter 26

THE INDIAN MILLS RESERVATION¹

FEW of us realize that the little village of Indian Mills, located nine miles southeast of Medford, is a place of historical interest and importance. The first Indian reservation in the United States, established by legislation either Federal or State, was located here from 1758 to 1802.

In 1754 John Brainerd, the celebrated Presbyterian Missionary to the West Jersey Indians, made an attempt to raise the money to purchase a large tract of land for the exclusive use of the Indians but his effort came to naught. John Brainerd succeeded his brother David, who died of Tuberculosis in 1747, in charge of Bethel, the Christian Indian town near Cranbury, New Jersey. The brothers were supported in their missionary work by the "Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian knowledge." A few years later John Brainerd made a renewed effort to secure a tract of land for the natives. He raised 150 pounds among his friends and the Scottish Society pledged 300 pounds. Again his effort was unsuccessful.

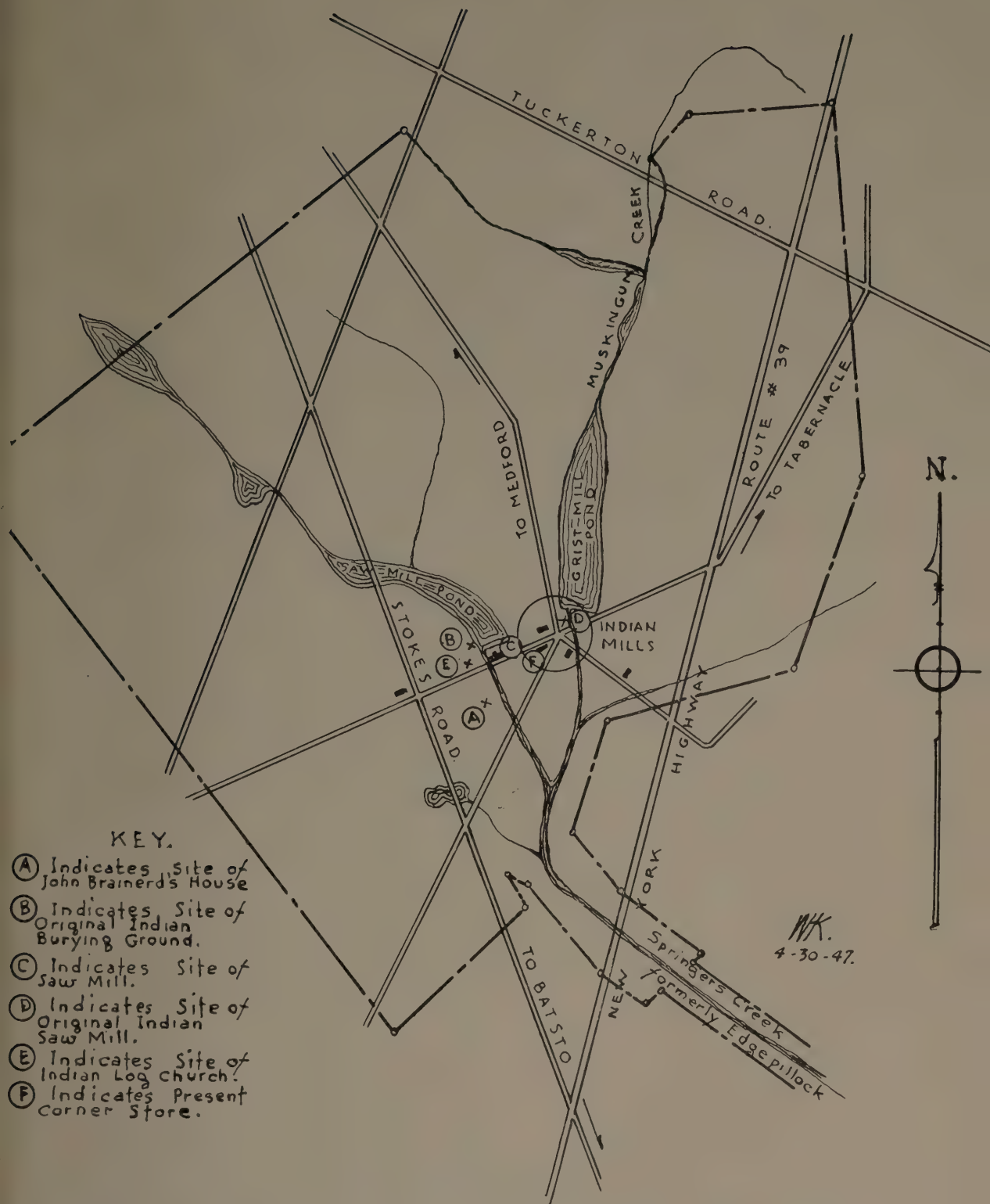
In 1757 a group of the leading Friends in Burlington organized the "New Jersey Association for Helping the Indians," the object of which was the purchase of a tract for the natives.² The first article read:

"That a tract of about 2,000 acres of the best land that can be got, nigh or adjourning to the Barrens in the Counties of Monmouth, Burlington or Gloucester in New Jersey, be purchased as soon as conveniently may be, after the subscriptions are completed."

The second article read:

"All the natives of New Jersey who had not freeholds already, with their families and their posterity forever were to be entitled to settle and live on the said land free of rent."

One hundred seventy (170) pounds were subscribed, of which 119 were given by the members of the philan-



Map of the Indian Reservation at Indian Mills, 1759. Drawn by William H. Kenderdine, Moorestown. Drawn from a map in Woodward & Hageman's History of Burlington and Mercer Counties.

thropic Smith family. John Woolman, the Quaker Journalist, was a charter member and subscribed six pounds to the fund. The Association, however, did not purchase the Reservation at Indian Mills, as claimed by one writer. The plan was abandoned probably for the reason that the State Legislature was considering the matter and eventually bought a large tract of land. On August 12, 1758, the Assembly passed the following Act:³

"Section 1. The Treasurer was authorized to pay unto Andrew Johnson, Richard Salter, Charles Read, John Stevens, William Foster and Jacob Spicer such Sum or Sums of money as they find necessary to purchase the right and claim of all or any of the Indian natives of this Colony-not exceeding sixteen hundred pounds, Proclamation Money and that the Sum expended in the purchase of the Delaware Indians, now inhabiting near Cranberry and to the Southward of Raritan River shall not exceed one half the said Sum.

"Section 2. The Indians south of the Raritan River requested to have part of the Sum allowed to them used for purchasing a Reservation. Law passed authorizing Commissioners with consent of the Governor to purchase a tract for their exclusive use."

On August 29, 1758, Governor Francis Bernard and the above named commissioners purchased a tract containing 3,044 acres from Benjamin Springer for 740 pounds.⁴ The tract was then in Evesham Township but at the present time is located in Shamong which was set off from Evesham in 1852. It was irregular in shape and the village of Indian Mills was located a little south of the center. The boundaries of the reservation were formerly marked by stone monuments, a few of which are standing at the present time. The Edgepillock Indians lived in the neighborhood of Indian Mills in 1758 and the stream near which the village stands bore the same name.

On this reservation a few more than one hundred Indians were gathered shortly after the tract was purchased in August, 1758. They represented many tribes or clans and Governor Bernard gave the settlement the beautiful and appropriate name of Brotherton. Indian Mills is of later origin. John Brainerd settled at Brotherton in 1759 and in 1762 Governor Josiah Hardy appointed him Su-

perintendent of the Reservation. On August 24, 1761, John Brainerd wrote a letter, dated at Brotherton, to Mrs. Elizabeth Smith of Wethersfield, Connecticut, from which I will quote freely as it gives a very clear description of the reservation at that time, and of his labors.⁵

Madam:—

According to my promise, I here send an account of the Indian mission in this province, which for some years has been the object of my care. On this spot which is a fine, large tract of land, and very commodiously situated for their settlement, there are something upward of an hundred, old and young.

About twelve miles distant there is a small settlement of them, perhaps near forty. About seventeen miles farther there is a third, containing possibly near as many more; and there are yet some few scattering ones still about Crossweeksung. And if all were collected, they might possibly make two hundred.

I spend something more than half my Sabbaths here at Brotherton; the rest are divided. At this place I have but few white people; the reason is, because this is near central between the Delaware and the sea, and the English settlements are chiefly on them. The other places are in the midst of the inhabitants, and, whenever I preach there, I have a large number of white people that meet to attend divine service. But, besides these, I have preached at eight different places on Lord's days, and near twenty on other days of the week, and never fail of a considerable congregation,—so large and extensive is this vacancy.

Two large counties, and a considerable part of two more, almost destitute of a preached gospel (except what the Quakers do in their way), and many of the people but one remove from a state of heathenism.

At this place, where most of the Indians are settled, we greatly want a school for the children. When I built the meeting-house last year, I provided some materials also for a schoolhouse, and in the fall addressed the legislature of this province for some assistance, not only for the support of a school, but for the erecting of a small grist-mill, a blacksmith's shop, and a small trading store to furnish the Indians with necessaries in exchange for produce, and so prevent their running twelve or fifteen miles to the inhabitants for every thing they want; whereby they not only consume much time, but often fall into the temptation of calling

at dram-houses (too frequent in the country), where they intoxicate themselves with spirituous liquors, and after some days, perhaps, instead of hours, return home wholly unfit for any thing relating either to this or a future world.

The Governor, the Council, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, and several of the other members, thought well of the motion, and recommended it; but the Quakers,⁶ and others in that interest, made opposition, and, being the greater part of the house, it finally went against us.

John Brainerd

P. S. Since my settlement here, I have been obliged to advance above 200 pounds for the building of the meeting-house, for some necessary repairs of an old piece of an house that was on the spot, and for my support and other necessary expenses.

The settlement "about twelve miles distant," referred to in the letter, was located a little more than a mile west of Vincentown on "Little Creek," called by the Indians "Coaxen Creek." In 1740 John Wills, son of Dr. Daniel, conveyed to the Indians a tract in that vicinity containing 242 acres "as long as the waters flow in the river Delaware and Rankokus rivers." This was the "Coaxen Tract" referred to previously.

The Coaxen Indians dwelt in the neighborhood of Vincentown and their principal village was located on Little Creek. John Brainerd erected a log or frame church near the Indian village early in the 1760's and preached to large gatherings of Indians and whites. The Indian village and the Brainerd church were, I believe, located on Emmor Roberts' farm west of Vincentown.

Title to the Reservation was taken by the Province of West Jersey "in trust for the Indians" and the reservation was to be for the exclusive use of the natives and free from taxation. No intoxicating drinks could be sold on the reservation but unscrupulous men opened grog shops nearby where the Indians could purchase liquor or barter their pelts for it. John Brainerd labored earnestly to counteract the influence of these places but apparently with little effect. At times he became exceedingly discouraged with the result of his labors, as shown by his letters.

Brainerd erected a log meeting house at Brotherton in 1760⁷ and a little later a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, a gristmill and a trading post. It is very difficult to ascertain the exact location of these buildings at this late date. There are two ponds at Indian Mills, one on each side of the road leading to Medford. The one about one fifth of a mile west of the corner store (Prickett's), known locally as the sawmill pond, and the other a little east of the store known as the gristmill pond.

According to Barber and Howe's Historical Collections (1844) John Brainerd's dwelling house stood forty-four yards south of the sawmill pond and the Indian Burying-ground was located on the western edge of the same pond, "forty rods N. W. of the same dwelling." In that vicinity stood the Indian Church. The natives had a sawmill on the edge of the gristmill pond.⁸

In spite of Brainerd's faithful labors the Indians seem to have steadily degenerated, especially after he moved to Mount Holly in 1768. John Hunt, a Quaker preacher, who lived near Moorestown, wrote in his Diary on January 22, 1777:

"I went with my friend Joshua Evans to See the poor Indians at Edgepiluck and wee found them in very low Circumstances as to food and Raiment. Joshua took them a Considerable parcel of old Cloaths with which the poor Nakid Children seemd Exceedingly Pleased. Joshua had been under Some Concern for these poor Creatures & proposed to them that if they could get Some money he would try to get Some Blankets for them gratis and So made them pay for them a moderate price and when (he) got their money he Laid it in Corn for them, not Leting them know what he Intended to do with their money till after he Delivered their Blanckets. This he did because these poor things are too apt to Lay out their money in Strong drink."

Subsequent entries in the diary show that food and clothing were frequently taken to the Indians for which they seemed very grateful. In 1801 the Reservation Indians received an invitation from their kin at New Stockbridge, near Oneida Lake, New York, "To pack up their mat and come and eat out of their dish," adding that "their necks were stretched in looking toward the fire-

side of their grandfather till they were long as Cranes."

On receiving this invitation the Brotherton Indians petitioned the Legislature to sell the Reservation Lands and turn the proceeds over to them so that they could join their relatives in New York. Governor Joseph Bloomfield appointed five commissioners to visit the reservation and obtain the assent of the Indians in writing. As practically all of the Indians signed or made their marks on the petition the Governor appointed Abraham Stockton, William Stockton and Charles Ellis to divide the Reservation lands into lots of not over 100 acres each and offer them at a public sale. The sale was held at the tavern at "Pipers Corner," near the Reservation on the road leading to Medford, on May 25, 1802. The lots were sold to the highest bidder.

The Indians, about eighty-five in number, were moved to New Stockbridge in 1802. Tradition says that it required twelve wagons to carry their household goods and farm implements. The aged rode in the wagons and the young men and women walked through the mud and sand. It was a sad and discouraged group that left **Scheyichibi** (New Jersey), the land of their birth and the home of their ancestors for at least one thousand years.

In 1822 the State Legislature received a petition from the remnant of the Lenni Lenape, then living in New York, requesting that certain bank stocks which had been purchased after the sale of their land in 1802 be deposited in the bank at Utica, as they desired to move to Green Bay, Michigan. They also called attention to the fact that they had received no compensation for their hunting and fishing rights when they surrendered title to their lands in 1758 and prayed that they be paid for same. The bank stock was transferred to Utica but their claim for compensation was not allowed.

Ten years later (1832) Bartholomew S. Calvin, whose Indian name was **Shawriskekung** (wilted grass), arrived from Green Bay with Power of Attorney to settle their claim for their hunting and fishing rights. He was the son of Stephen Calvin, the famous schoolmaster and farmer at Brotherton. Bartholomew had attended Princeton

College, supported by John Brainerd, and was an old man when he arrived. The claim for compensation was not granted but the Legislature, apparently out of sympathy for the poor Indians who at one time owned West Jersey, directed the Treasurer to pay Calvin \$2,000 for the extinguishment of their claim.

Calvin, in a letter to the Legislature thanking the members for their liberality, said: "Not a drop of our blood have ye spilled in battle, not an acre of land have ye taken but by our consent, naught save benisons can fall upon her from the lips of a Lenni Lenape." The record of our little State is without blemish in its treatment of the Indians and we Jersey men should indeed be proud of our record. The Indians called the Governor of New Jersey, *Sagorigiviyegatha*, the Doer of Justice.

INDIAN ANN

The story of the Indian Reservation would not be complete without a brief sketch of "Indian Ann," the last of the Delawares. Her father, Elisha Ashatama or Lasha Tamar, as the name is sometimes spelled, is said to have departed with the Reservation Indians in 1802 but, according to tradition, did not like his new home in New York and walked back to his old haunts in Burlington County. It is not definitely known where Indian Ann was born or who her mother was. Her father settled on the John Woolman farm, near the village of Rancocas on his return from New York and very likely she was born there.

Her first husband is said to have been Peter Green, a manumitted slave. She afterwards married John Roberts, a negro, and settled in a little frame house not far from Indian Mills on the Dingtletown road. The house is still standing though in a dilapidated condition. She had seven children, named Peter, John, Samuel, Richard, Hester Ann, Mariah and Lydia. All trace of her children seems to have been lost.

In 1945 N. R. Ewan, of Moorestown, who has made a study of Indian Ann, wrote to Washington and received

an official report of John Roberts, Jr.'s Civil War record. John enlisted in Company A, 22nd Regiment of Colored Troops in 1863 and died in the Army Hospital at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1864 of a disease contracted in the service. At the time of his enlistment his age was recorded as twenty-five. Indian Ann Roberts applied for a pension in 1880 and on the application her age appears as seventy-five, which would indicate that she was born in 1805, shortly after her father returned from New Stockbridge. She was granted a pension of \$8.00 per month which was increased to \$12.00 in 1886. This small pension, together with what she made by selling Indian baskets made by herself and blueberries in season enabled her to live in comparative comfort after her husband's death.

A number of the older residents of the neighborhood remember Indian Ann quite well and tell many anecdotes about her. She was a familiar figure at Indian Mills, Medford, Vincentown and Mount Holly. She frequently walked from her home to Vincentown, a distance of fully ten miles, where she would take the train for Mount Holly to sell her baskets.

Frank Wright, who recently died in Mount Holly at the age of 86, was the telegraph operator and station agent at Vincentown in the 1880's and told the writer that he remembered Indian Ann very distinctly. He said that she would appear at the station in time for the morning train to Mount Holly and return on the evening train in no condition to walk to Indian Mills. Mr. Wright frequently locked her in the waiting room for the night and in the morning he would release her, doubtless in better condition for her long walk after a good night's sleep.

Indian Ann died in December, 1894, in her ninetieth year and was buried in the Methodist Graveyard in Tabernacle. Through the effort of Mr. Ewan, her grave has been located and the Burlington County Historical Society has placed a granite marker on her grave, inscribed as follows:

INDIAN ANN,

The last of the Delawares.
Died, 1894 in her 90th Year.

Erected by
The Burlington County Historical
Society.

FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 26

¹ This sketch in reality does not belong in this book as Indain Mills is not located on either branch of Rancocas Creek or a tributary thereof. However, as there is so much interest in the history of the Indians and as the story of the Indian Reservation has not been told except in Newspaper Articles I have decided to include it.

² The Burlington Smiths, 104-106.

³ Allinson's Laws, 220-221.

⁴ Secretary of State's Office, Liber O, 394.

⁵ Brainerd, 316.

⁶ It is difficult to understand why the Quakers did not approve the measure, unless the bill stated that the money was to be raised by lottery.

⁷ Brainerd, 318.

⁸ Barber and Howe, 121.

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